NBI: Woman behind P203-M Landbank tax scam

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SEC backs protection fund for plan holders

By Elena R. Torrijos

THE SECURITIES and Exchange Commission is supporting a proposal to set up a pre-need plan holders' protection fund that will function like the Philippine Deposit Insurance Corp.

"I think it would be good to have such a thing," SEC Chair Lilia Bautista

SEC/A7

GMA shifts target from Abus to Reds

Troops ordered deployed to threatened areas

By Carlito Pablo and Martin P. Marfil

AFTER declaring war on crime syndicates and Abu Sayyaf bandits, President Macapagal-Arroyo is taking on communist guerrillas.

"*Kung mayroon silang ipinapahayag na pulitika, basta't terorista ginigiyera natin iyon* (The war on terrorism does not distinguish between ordinary terrorists and those espousing a political ideology)," the President said yesterday in a speech at the mass oath taking of newly elected barangay officials in Sta. Cruz, Laguna.

The President is not issuing an empty threat. She has ordered the Department of National Defense and the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) to move troops from Abu Sayyaf-influenced areas in Mindanao to places where the communist-led New People's Army (NPA) is operating, according to Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye.

"Defense Secretary (Angelo) Reyes has received the orders from the President to start re-deploying forces to NPA-threatened areas now that we have effectively addressed the Abu Sayyaf problem," Bunye said at a briefing.

The troops may include units trained by US forces in the recently concluded RP-US Balikatan 02-1 exercise but Bunye declined to confirm this.

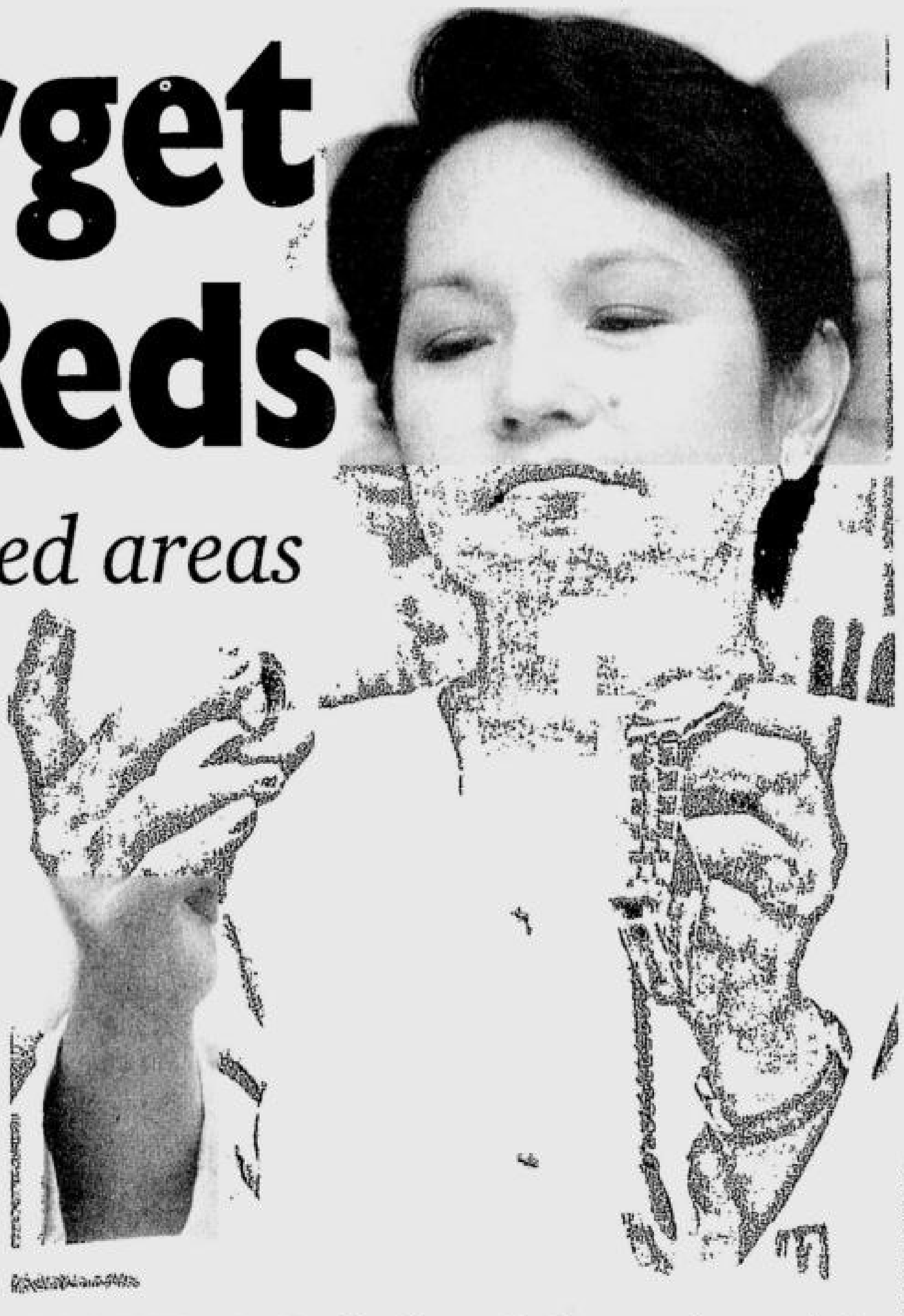
US Special Forces have equipped and trained a number of Light Reaction Companies and other frontline AFP units during the course of the six-month Balikatan 02-1.

Bunye did not say what areas would be given priority in the redeployment of troops.

"I think that's an operational detail that can't be divulged," Bunye said.

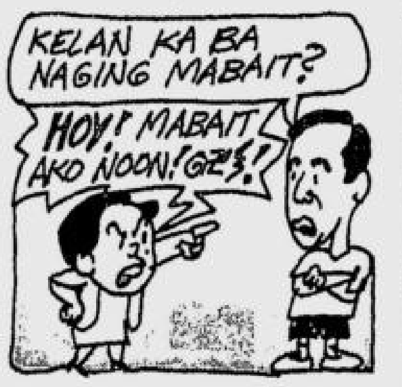
But Gen. Roy Cimatu, AFP chief of staff, said some battalions would be deployed back to Central and Northern Mindanao from Western Mindanao, where Basilan and Sulu are located. Basilan and Sulu are the strongholds of

GMA/A16



EDWIN BACASMAS

THE EVIDENCE is at hand, President Macapagal makes sure, as she once again shows off at the Department of Justice criminal suspects which she calls society's "real termites."



KELAN KA BA NAGING MABAIT?
HOY! MABAIT AKO NOON! GZ$!

'From US puppy to pit bull'

By Agnes E. Donato

"WHEN was she ever nice?"

A militant group claimed yesterday the President's change in image was not from Mrs. Nice Guy to crime-buster, but from "America's cute little puppy to America's pit bull."

"What Mrs. Nice Guy? President (Macapagal)-Arroyo was never nice in the first place," said Bagong Alyansang Makabayan secretary general Teodoro Casiño.

If ever, Casiño said, the President was "pleasant and amiable" only to the likes of US officials, tycoons Danding Cojuangco and Lucio Tan and

FROM/A16

Even cell phone thieves and pickpockets ...

By Michael Lim Ubac and Carlito Pablo

THE PRESIDENT brought her tough-on-crime road show to the Department of Justice yesterday, presenting 10 more criminal suspects the police arrested recently. The suspects included two alleged car thieves who are among the country's 10 Most Wanted, and five gang members allegedly responsible for robbing 45 restaurants in Metro Manila.

President Macapagal-Arroyo also took aim at three trial court judges, saying they had issued questionable decisions allowing smuggling or drug trafficking suspects to flee. She instructed Justice Secretary Hernando Perez to file charges against all three.

At the DOJ briefing which was attended by top law enforcement officials, Ms Macapagal also presented three small-time cell phone thieves and pickpockets.

She told reporters that criminals were the real "termites in our society," and gave credit to the citizenry for helping fight the war on crime.

"To the criminals who comprise the bulk of termites in our society, I say, it will not only be government law enforcers who will be watching over you . . . but the majority of Filipino people who have become emboldened to fight crime in their longing for peace, order and prosperity in our country," she said.

At the briefing, she also announced the filing of criminal charges against the shipping owner, ship captain and two consignees involved in smuggling 35,000 bags of rice last year.

She also announced the Videogram Regulatory Board's rewards program for information leading to the arrest of top manufacturers of pirated compact discs. She said the rewards ranged

EVEN/A16

2 Pinay caregivers killed in suicide blast

By Blanche S. Rivera and Christine Herrera

ONLY her fingerprints served to identify one of the two Filipino workers killed in the latest suicide bombing Sunday in Israel.

Labor Secretary Patricia Sto. Tomas said yesterday that authorities could not immediately identify the remains of Adelina Cunanan, who had worked in Israel as a caregiver for the past five years, because her body was badly mangled. Cunanan, of Minalin, Pampanga, would have turned 44 on Aug. 15.

The other Filipino worker killed in the explosion in a bus bound for Sefat from Haifa in northern Israel was Rebecca Ruga, 39, of Bansud, Oriental Mindoro. Like Cunanan, she was employed as a caregiver in Satsufa.

At least nine persons died and 50 others were seriously injured in the suicide bombing for which the militant Hamas claimed responsibility.

Foreign Secretary Blas Ople said the unavailability of car pools on Sundays cost the two Filipinos their lives.

He said that since the escalation of hostilities between Palestinians and Is-

2 PINAY/A17

DENNIS SABANGAN

"SOMETHING is happening after nine months," says a pleased Kaye Torres, daughter of murdered actress Nida.

Ex-Isafp chief: I can make Medel talk

By Arlyn dela Cruz and TJ Burgonio

THE FORMER chief of military intelligence allegedly responsible for the recantation of the confession of Philip Medel Jr. that he killed actress Nida Blanca finally surfaced yesterday to deny that he was the suspect's "damage controller."

Retired Gen. Galileo Kintanar, former chief of the Intelligence Service of the Armed Forces from 1987 to 1990, told the INQUIRER that he was "willing to help solve the case," by talking to Medel because he knew the "psyche of Medel" and can make him talk.

In an earlier statement made by retired Philippine Constabulary Maj.

EX-ISAFP/A7

ADELINA CUNANAN: She always took the train. On the doomed bus, she stood nearest to the suicide bomber.

'But why did you suddenly ride a bus?'

By Tonette T. Orejas
PDI Central Luzon Desk

MINALIN, Pampanga—"You always rode a train. Why did you ride a bus?" 17-year-old Gladys Cunanan said in a voice filled with sorrow.

The reproach was meant for her mother, Adelina Lagunilla-Cunanan, who died Sunday when a Palestinian suicide bomber turned a packed bus into a fireball in northern Israel.

It was all that Gladys could say after a relative working in Tel Aviv broke the news to her by phone yesterday.

Adelina's brother Pablo Lagunilla Jr. recounted her brush with death last year. She took a bus but decided to disembark at the last minute, suddenly mindful of the bus bombings in Tel Aviv.

That same bus later exploded. Since then, Lagunilla said, his

BUT/A17

Israel bans travel for Palestinians

JERUSALEM—Israel on Monday announced a "total ban" on Palestinian travel in much of the West Bank and sealed off a chunk of the Gaza Strip with tanks in response to Palestinian attacks on Israelis that killed 13 people over 24 hours.

Defense Minister Binyamin Ben-Eliezer said that restrictions on Palestinian movement would be tightened further. Troops, he said, were also planning operations to "maintain a much bigger closure than what we are doing now."

The new restrictions were imposed after a bloody 24-hour period in which a Palestinian suicide bomber blew up an Israeli bus and gunmen carried out shooting attacks in Jerusalem and the West Bank.

Eleven Israelis and two Filipino women ***(Stories on this page)*** were killed in these attacks. Three assailants also died.

Under the new ban, Palestinians will not be able to drive in the northern half of the West Bank, between the towns of Nablus, Jenin, Qalqiliya, Tulkarem and Ramallah, the Army said. Some movement will be permitted in the southern West Bank, including the towns of Hebron, Bethlehem and Jericho.

"We are in a situation of total closure in the area of Samaria," Ben-Eliezer said, using the biblical name for the northern West Bank. "Nobody enters and nobody leaves. There is no movement between the towns and villages."

Stringent restrictions on Palestinian travel have been in place since the out

ISRAEL/A17

Second FRONT PAGE

IKULONG YAN!

Woman behind ₱203-M tax scam—NBI

By Philip C. Tubeza

JAIL for big tax cheats. President Macapagal-Arroyo has said more than once that she wanted nothing less.

And so jail it is that surely awaits the woman behind the Land Bank of the Philippines' multimillion-peso tax scam, whom the National Bureau of Investigation said it has identified.

NBI Director Reynaldo Wycoco refused to name the mastermind during a press conference yesterday, although he did say that she used to work in the securities market.

"We are still building the case," Wycoco explained.

The syndicate, which allegedly included officials of the bank, had diverted around P203 million worth of taxes into at least three accounts in its Binangonan branch from January to June this year. Fictitious names and addresses had been used to open the accounts.

Wycoco named two alleged syndicate members: a bank messenger, and one supposed "contact person" at the Bureau of Internal Revenue.

The NBI chief presented a sketch of Nelson Malaluan, the alleged BIR contact, who had reportedly gone into hiding.

He said Malaluan was the conduit between the syndicate head and Artemio San Juan Jr., LandBank Binangonan branch manager. San Juan has been charged before the Department of Justice with 17 counts of violating the anti-money laundering law.

Because Malaluan's name might be an alias, Wycoco said, the NBI was still conducting a thorough check of his background.

The suspect was described as between 45 to 50 years old, 5'4" tall, of medium build, and with fair complexion, a mole on his lower face, and a husky voice.

"We believe he is a BIR employee and a high-ranking member of the syndicate," Wycoco said.

NBI agents had gone to the house of the other suspect, Rival Lasanas, on Sunday, Wycoco said, but the messenger wasn't home. ***(See related story.)***

LandBank cashier Acsa Ramirez, 37, whom the President had hastily presented to media on Friday, was released after an interview with NBI investigators later that same day.

Wycoco said Ramirez had been implicated because she signed four bank transactions worth more than P4 million, but did not report them to the Anti-Money Laundering Council, as required by law.

"We invited her so she could give her side. Then we had to release her, since no case had been filed, although we could subpoena her if we have new evidence," Wycoco said.

Although San Juan was the only one so far charged, Wycoco added, the NBI did not believe he could have diverted the tax money all by himself.

With Dona Pazzibugan

Suspect loves fast cars

MESSENGER Rival Lasanas gets a monthly salary of P4,000 from LandBank Services.

But he owns two cars, a house, and "other properties," according to NBI Chief Reynaldo Wycoco.

One of these cars, a "souped-up" 1999 black Nissan Sentra, with plate CPR 782, was confiscated on Sunday by NBI agents. The car's sound system alone was estimated at P120,000, Wycoco added.

Lasanas, a suspect in the multimillion-peso tax scam involving officials of the Land Bank of the Philippines, had apparently used "the fruits" of the racket to purchase his cars and other assets, the NBI chief said.

Lasanas was not home when his car was confiscated, Wycoco said, "But his relatives promised to turn him over to authorities as soon as he showed up."

'They are using dogs to hunt Filipinos'

By Julie S. Alipala
PDI Mindanao Bureau

ZAMBOANGA CITY—Malaysia deported 122 Filipinos, 60 of them children, on board a fishing vessel designed to carry 30 persons.

Commodore Ernesto de Leon, the Naval Forces South commander, said they were rescued by a Philippine Navy boat at Tanduh Taong Point near Cagayan de Tawi-Tawi on Aug. 1.

"Our navy boat Sultan Kudarat PS 22 was patrolling the sea in that area when they sighted on their radar a fishing vessel loaded with people," De Leon told the INQUIRER.

Southcom chief Lt. Gen. Ernesto Carolina said the 122 deportees "were packed like sardines" in the small boat.

The FB Jamilla, reportedly owned by Ismael Anson, was ferrying passengers coming from Mapun Island in Tawi-Tawi. Some of the deportees, however, said the fishing boat regularly ferries Filipino passengers from Malaysia to the southern Philippines.

Rolly Limco, 38, who worked in a logging company in Sandakan, said that they paid P400 each for the trip back to the Philippines.

Limco, a native of Zamboanga Sibugay, along with his wife Alma and two kids said they surrendered to the Royal Malaysian Police as soon as they learned of the crackdown against foreigners illegally staying in Malaysia.

He described the crackdown as inhuman. "They are using dogs to hunt Filipinos, they jail them once you cannot produce documents," Limco said in Cebuano.

He said that he managed to bring his *maleta*, and other personal belongings, "but our house that stood there for more than 15 years was destroyed by the Malaysian police."

Another refugee, Sajid Majid, of barangay Lower Calarian this city, said that terror grips the Filipino communities in Malaysia as the Royal police started arresting Filipinos without inspecting if they have work permits or documents.

Majid said he escaped from Malaysia when he learned of the crackdown that officially started on Aug. 1. "But they started the crackdown as early as July 28. They even used spy planes to find the Filipinos there," Majid said.

He said that he took the Jamilla fishing boat last July for the trip back to Zamboanga City. "I didn't mind if it was overloaded, the important thing was that I was going home."

The deportees are being processed by the Department of Social Welfare and Development Office before they are sent home.

PS 22 Sultan Kudarat boat captain Alex Pama said one refugee identified as Edgar Juan, 50, went insane during the trip from Mapun to Zamboanga.

"He reportedly got separated from his wife and kids who are still in Malaysia," Pama said.

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Parents Name			Occupation	Living/Deceased
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(Mother)				
Parents Mailing Address				Contact No.
Do you have any relatives in the gov't service? Name?	Relationship		Department/Office	Position
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(Elementary)				
(High School)				
(College to include Course Taken)				
Have you ever been a cadet of the PAFFS, PMA, PNPA, PMMA, OCS or other military training institutions? Yes ☐ No ☐			Reason for Elimination	
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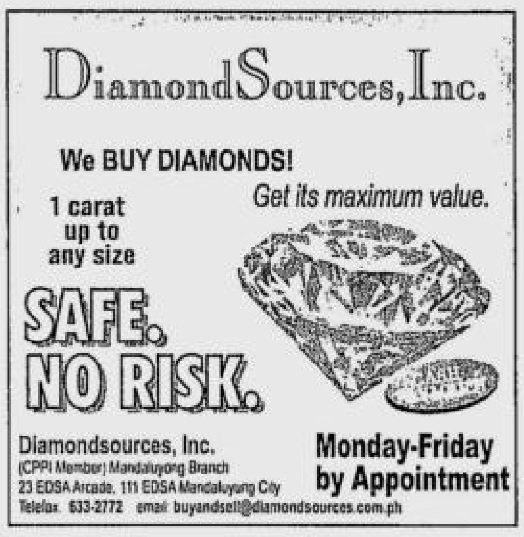
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19 generals lose millions in 'pyramid scam'

By TJ Burgonio

ALL is fair (game) in this racket.

At least 19 police generals were among more than a thousand police and military officials reportedly swindled in another huge "pyramid scam."

This time the perpetrator was a company called Exsior Enterprises, whose investors, according to documents, included Director Nestorio Gualberto of the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group (CIDG); Chief Superintendent Rolando Sacramento of the Eastern Police District; Marcelo Ele Jr. of the Aviation Security Group; and Arturo Lumibao of Region 1.

Also in the list were Chief Superintendents Raymundo Logan, Glenn Rabonza, Renato Paredes, Rogelio Bathan, Enrique Galang Jr., Dante Tejada, Marcelo Navarro Jr., Alfredo de Vera, Domingo Reyes Jr., George Ancheta, Fernando Vinculado, Generoso Necesito, Donato Gonzales, and Rosendo Abinoja Jr.

An official who asked not to be named said the CIDG had been inundated with complaints from police and military officers and civilians following reports that Exsior owner Ferdinand C. Sison had flown to the United States on July 31.

Until recently, the investors had been receiving, as guaranteed, up to 15 percent ROI (return of investment) per month in checks.

The official said initial investments made in Exsior totaled P1.2 billion, and individual investments ranged from P50,000 to P40 million.

Earlier, some generals were also reportedly duped by Glasgow, another investment company that closed shop last month.

The CIDG had uncovered four more companies that operated under the same 15-percent ROI scheme: ICS, MTST, New Castle and Strasborough Int'l Corp.

Upon CIDG's request, the Securities and Exchange Commission's market regulation department issued a certification that all six companies had not been issued the necessary license to act as a broker, securities and government securities dealer, and investment house.

As such, the CIDG official said, the companies violated RA 8799 or the Securities Regulation Code, and that the owners faced a string of charges, including estafa and violation of the anti-money laundering law.

He said the investors were gathering more complaints before filing appropriate charges.

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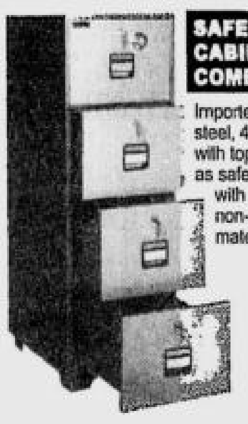

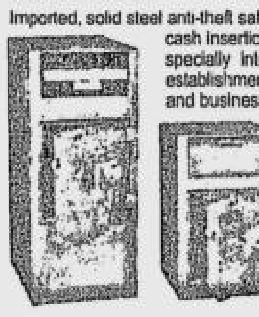

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Search for Ombudsman may take longer

By Carlito Pablo

THE SEARCH for a new Ombudsman may take a little longer.

As of yesterday, the first working day after Aniano Desierto stepped down as Ombudsman on Aug. 4, Malacañang has yet to receive the list of candidates drawn up by the Judicial and Bar Council (JBC).

Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said the list will be received by Presidential Legal Counsel Avelino Cruz.

Bunye quoted Cruz as saying that the JBC, which is chaired by Chief Justice Hilario Davide Jr., has until Aug. 31 to submit the list to Malacañang.

"The deadline is still up to the end of the month," Bunye said.

The talk in legal circles is that Solicitor General Simeon Marcelo has the inside track in the race for the post of Ombudsman.

Marcelo is a former member of the influential Carpio, Villaraza and Cruz law office, of which Cruz is also a former partner.

In a previous interview, Bunye stressed that President Macapagal-Arroyo will choose the new Ombudsman based on the JBC list and will not be influenced by other quarters.

The other reported candidates include Justice Undersecretary Jose Calida, Chief State Prosecutor Jovencito Zuno and acting Ombudsman Margarito Gervacio.

Civil groups are said to be pushing for the appointment of either former Sen. Wigberto Tañada or Haydee Yorac, current chair of the Presidential Commission on Good Government.

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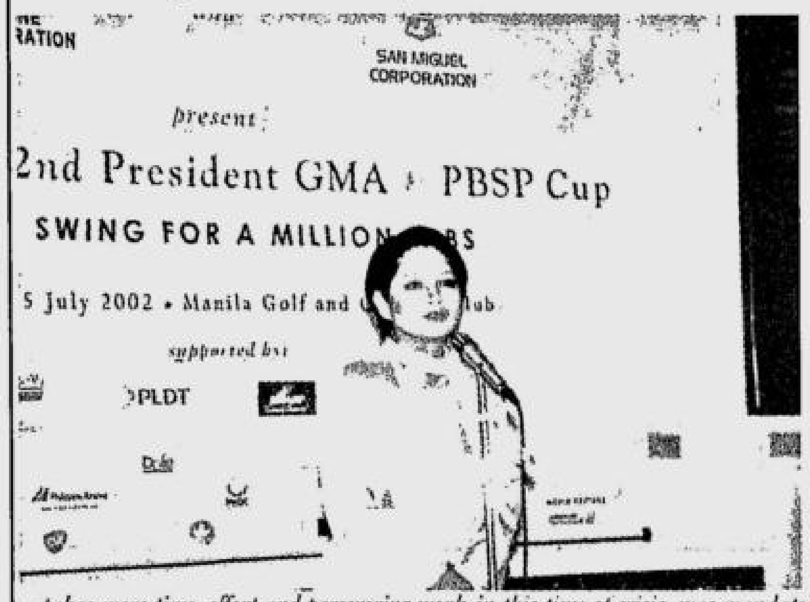
AURORA "Bening" B. Mintu-Fojas of Tanza, Cavite, died on Aug. 3, 2002. She was 75.

She was the widow of trial lawyer Apolinar S. Fojas. She is survived by her children: Alex, Bernard, Cecil, Dave, Edgar (deceased), Flory, Gerry and Bobby; in-laws and grandchildren.

Her body lies at the St. Augustine Church in Tanza, Cavite. Interment is on Saturday, Aug. 10, after a 1 p.m. Mass at the Sta. Cruz Memorial Park in Tanza.

> *My working agenda for the coming year will focus on creating and improving job opportunities. Citizens with rewarding jobs paying decent wages constitute not just a stone in the edifice but the very foundation of a strong republic."* –President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo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The 2nd President GMA-PBSP Cup

Business gives all-out support to A Million Jobs

A sage once said that it is better to be like an old stone block hidden in the foundations, under the ground where no one can see than be like the gilded weather vane on top of a great building. Because of the stone blocks which serve as strong, solid foundation, the house will not fall.

When President Macapagal-Arroyo anchored her economic agenda on improving human capital as key to winning the war against poverty in her recent State of the Nation Address (SONA), she identified the essential building blocks for her administration. Job creation, which admittedly takes more time, effort and persevering work in this time of crisis, was mandated by the President in her first SONA. After a year, statistics and reports showed that efforts which have empowered the underserved communities with sustainable jobs are reinforcing the foundations of President Arroyo's strong republic.

In the recently concluded fundraising golf tournament dubbed The 2nd *President GMA-PBSP Cup*, more than 100 business leaders of top Philippine corporations gathered at the Manila Golf and Country Club and raised P15.75 million in support of the government's *A Million Jobs* Program. During the opening of the tournament President Arroyo said, *"To create jobs, we need to have a business environment that is good for investments. Many of the things that you need in your business environment need a strong republic. For instance, peace and order. A strong republic is not an end in itself but a means to create more jobs."*

Presidential Adviser on Creating One Million Jobs and Chairman of the Golf Committee, Luis P. Lorenzo, Jr., in addressing the participating businessmen in the recent tournament said, "*Standing in front of you and looking at the Manila Golf landscape, one does not realize just how difficult life is in many of the poorer areas of Metro Manila, which can be very close to where we live or where we work. We have to examine and see what we can do to help.*"

The President welcomed by PBSP Trustees, (L-R): Cito Lorenzo, Ma. Luisa Perez-Rubio, Oscar Lopez and Marixl Prieto.

Having achieved significant gains in the battle against poverty in Mindanao where the proceeds of the 1st President GMA-PBSP Cup were allocated, this year's benefit golfest, which was organized by the Philippine Business for Social Progress (PBSP), hopes to accomplish even more when it takes on the challenge of helping bridge the gap in the ranks of the unemployed.

Several corporations have been generous in their support to the cause. The presenting sponsors of The 2nd President GMA - PBSP Cup were First Philippine Holdings Corporation and San Miguel Corporation. Major sponsors were: PLDT, Smart, Unilab and Citra. Hole sponsors were: Del Monte, Dole Asia Ltd., J. Cunanan, Nestlé, EDC, Petron, SGV & Co., Shell, Aboitiz & Co., Landbank, Monsanto, PNOC and RCBC. Jardine Matheson and PHINMA also participated.

EDC team led by Chairman Sergio Apostol was the tournament Champion.

Media Partner was Philippine Daily Inquirer and Hole-In-One sponsor was Toyota. Prize sponsors were PAL and Northwest.

A MARKET-ORIENTED APPROACH

"It's really a market-oriented attempt to create jobs... initially, agri and food-based efforts, in the countryside," said Lorenzo when asked about the achievement of *A Million Jobs* team which as of last count, has reported 810,149 jobs generated in the agriculture sector.

These gains, admits Lorenzo, would not have been accomplished without the active collaboration of many institutions. Among others, Landbank and QuedanCor spearheaded aggressive innovative lending programs that set many of the livelihood projects in the agriculture sector in motion while a number of corporations also got involved. For instance, Nestlé and San Miguel Corporation worked closely with the team to facilitate job creation in the coffee and cassava production. In the end, what caused jobs to be created in agriculture is the availability and delivery of credit to farmers and the flow of private sector investments.

AN ALTERNATIVE CREDIT FINANCING

The core of PBSP's initiatives rests on building communities that can manage and sustain their growth. In expanding the capabilities of economically challenged communities in the urban sector for enterprise development, the *A Million Jobs* team, in cooperation with PBSP and QuedanCor, taps the potential of female entrepreneurs engaged in micro-enterprises such as *sari-sari* stores, garments and houseware. Through micro-financing, PBSP hopes to make the beneficiaries more productive and their business more economically viable.

"The amount raised from the tournament will be leveraged to P63 million, by churning out P10,000 packages for every borrower with an interest rate of 16 % per annum, a rate which is actually a lot better than the 36 to 49 % that micro-finance companies offer. These ladies, who are organized in groups of 15, elect a leader for each team. The leader then receives 25% of the collection to serve as an incentive. Through this set-up, we are selling and actualizing hope to these entrepreneurs. To date, we have already trained 12,000 of them," explains Lorenzo.

A unique feature of this alternative credit financing introduced by QuedanCor is the additional P10,000 which every borrower can avail. Known as a *lifeline*, this added mechanism gives the entrepreneur access to more credit in times of emergency, thus, avoiding the need to approach the informal sector which usually gives atrocious charging rates.

TEACH A MAN HOW TO FISH

Inspired by the time-honored parable on teaching a man how to fish instead of subsisting on dole-outs, PBSP spearheads not just livelihood projects in various communities but also supports social infrastructure projects such as community organizing, partnership-building and training and environmental protection/regeneration.

PBSP has a concept of development that goes beyond giving welfare contributions to communities in need. It teaches people how they can do better in life and essentially encourage them to become not just self-sufficient individuals but entrepreneurs as well.

"Linking up with PBSP results in tremendous synergy, since business can concentrate on its primary function of pursuing business, while PBSP provides coordination and lead in social development. First Holdings sees it beneficial to support government-private sector cooperation in jobs creation, specifically the female entrepreneurs engaged in micro-enterprises. Our involvement, hopefully, sends a message to other businesses that corporate social responsibility should not be sacrificed, but instead maintained, or better still, expanded, in the face of an economic slowdown.," First Philippine Holdings Corporation Chair & CEO Oscar M. Lopez said.

"One of the ways that we think we can be effective in reaching out is through the network and infrastructure of PBSP. It's a good alliance - instead of setting up our own organization, we'd rather work with social development experts," explains Carlos Ejercito, President of United Laboratories (Unilab), a major sponsor of the tournament.

Her Excellency with the supporters and guests of The 2nd President GMA - PBSP Cup, L-R: Nicasio Alcantara, Sergio Apostol, OV Espiritu, Rudy Cuenca, Cito Lorenzo, Ma. Luisa Perez-Rubio, Marixl Prieto, Oscar Lopez and Juan Santos.

Today, PBSP is the largest business-led social development foundation in the Philippines and perhaps the only one of its kind in Asia. Corporate commitments from its member companies are translated to social development in very concrete terms.

"The management of PBSP has been quite innovative in trying to create a multiplier effect, not just on the resources at hand, but on the value and impact of the work done," adds Oscar Reyes, former PBSP Trustee and Chairman and CEO of Shell, one of the sponsors of the tournament.

With an active board consisting of 21 CEOs providing policy direction that complement the work of full time, professional staff who are engaged in many projects nationwide, PBSP has already reached 2.8 million beneficiaries from the time of its inception in the early '70's.

"The contributions of PBSP would look so small when viewed against the entire country's poverty problem. Nonetheless, the board and its membership remain hopeful that whatever strides it has made might inspire others to follow suit," said Ma. Luisa Perez-Rubio, PBSP President.

The 2nd President GMA - PB
SWING FOR A MILLION JOBS

Presidential Adviser on Creating One Million Jobs Luis P. Lorenzo informs sponsors about the beneficiaries of the tournament.

For the founders of PBSP, Corporate Citizenship is not an option, but a responsibility to help people help themselves. It is not only through monetary contribution that the business sector can assist the marginalized sector of society, but through sharing competencies it possesses to succeed in facing the challenge of helping the poor. Through this emanates the hope to alleviate poverty, unleash human potential and ultimately, achieve social development. ✱

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Tuesday, August 6, 2002
Transfiguration of the Lord

1st Reading: **Dn 7:9-10, 13-14**
2nd Reading: **2 P 1:16-19**
Gospel: **Mt 17:1-9**

Jesus took with him Peter and James and his brother John and led them up a high mountain where they were alone. Jesus' appearance was changed before them: his face shone like the sun and his clothes became bright as light. Just then Moses and Elijah appeared to them, talking with Jesus.

Peter spoke and said to Jesus, "Master, it is good that we are here. If you so wish, I will make three tents: one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah."

Peter was still speaking when a bright cloud covered them in its shadow, and a voice from the cloud said, "This is my Son, the Beloved, my Chosen One. Listen to him."

On hearing the voice, the disciples fell to the ground, full of fear. But Jesus came, touched them and said, "Stand up, do not be afraid." When they raised their eyes, they no longer saw anyone except Jesus. And as they came down the mountain, Jesus commanded them not to tell anyone what they had just seen, until the Son of Man be raised from the dead.

Commentary

We all have ups and downs in life. At times we feel like we're on a mountaintop with a clear vision of the Lord; his presence becomes clear, making us feel happy and full of courage. Other times we feel down, burdened, abandoned in a valley of tears in the market place of our daily routine. We all need little transfigurations in our life, to look at ourselves and at everything else from the perspective of God, his Law and his Word, to feel reaffirmed by the Lord's presence. Though, like Peter, we would like to remain in Tabor, we will find courage to face any new challenge in life. Viktor Frankl said: "A person can bare anything as long as he has a reason, a purpose, a vision," like what the disciples got at the Transfiguration.

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SUPREME COURT GUIDELINES

REMEDIAL LAW (CIVIL PROCEDURE)—Judgment in *rem* and in *personam*—*A* judgment in *rem is* binding upon the whole word, such as a judgment in a land registration case or probate of a wills *A* judgment in *personam is* binding upon the parties and their successors in interest but not upon strangers. A judgment directing a party to deliver possession of a property to another is in *personam;* it is binding only against the parties and their successors in interest by title subsequent to the commencement of the action. Suits to quiet title are not technically suits in *rem*, nor are they, strictly speaking, in *personam*, but being against the person in respect of the *res*, these proceedings are characterized as quasi in *rem*. The judgment in such proceedings is conclusive only between the parties. In this case, the action below is basically one for declaration of nullity of title and recovery of ownership of real property, or re-conveyance. An action to recover a parcel of land is a real action, but it is an action in *personam*, for it binds a particular individual only although it concerns the right to a tangible thing. Any judgment therein is binding only upon the parties properly impleaded. [Citations omitted.] *[En Banc,* Justice Pardo, Alonso v. Cebu Country Club, Inc., G. R. No. 130876, January31, 2002]

Digest by R. B. Vera

DOH chief laments exodus of RP nurses

By Blanche S. Rivera

THE DEPARTMENT of Health yesterday expressed alarm over the exodus of Filipino nurses to other countries, leaving behind the younger and inexperienced nurses.

Health Secretary Manuel Dayrit said yesterday that the DOH is working on a better training system to produce competent nurses over a shorter period of time.

Dayrit said that the DOH has to address the effects of the mass departure of Filipino nurses, who are lured by the higher pay and better opportunities abroad, particularly in the United States and the United Kingdom.

While he said that the exodus of more experienced and specialty nurses was lamentable, the government could do nothing to mitigate this as most local hospitals could not afford to give them good salaries.

"We have to face reality. We cannot tell them not to leave. That's why we have to develop a system that ensures that they are well-trained," Dayrit said in a press conference yesterday.

He urged the Commission on Higher Education to make sure that the new two-year nursing courses being offered in more and more schools adhere to local and international standards.

He said that the nursing schools should be tapped to help produce competent young nurses.

Dayrit said that even if the new graduates plan to migrate and work abroad, they would need to train first in local hospitals.

"The only thing that would keep them here, at least for the time being, is better training. You cannot expect to stem the tide by raising their salaries because they would always earn more outside the country," Dayrit said.

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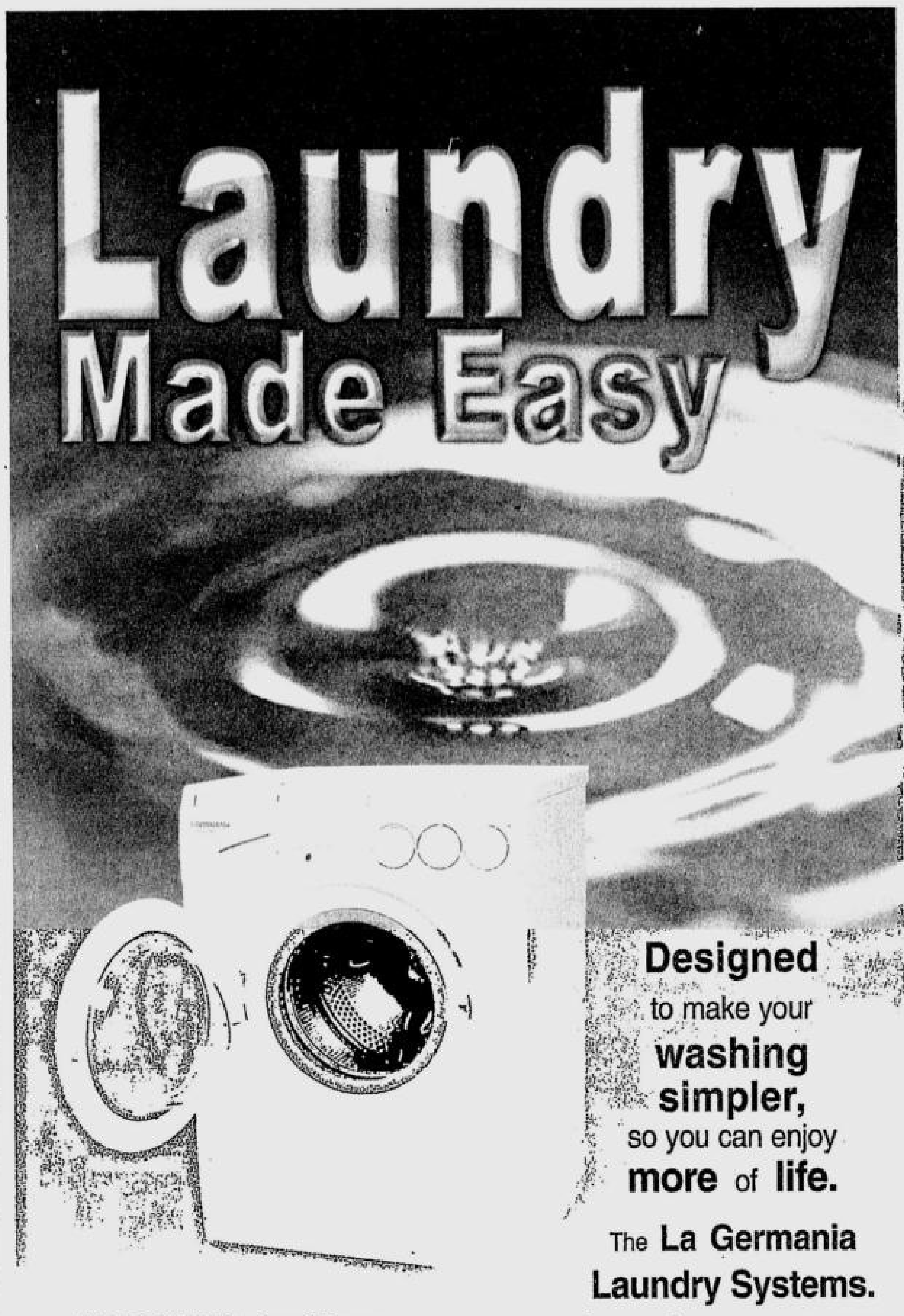

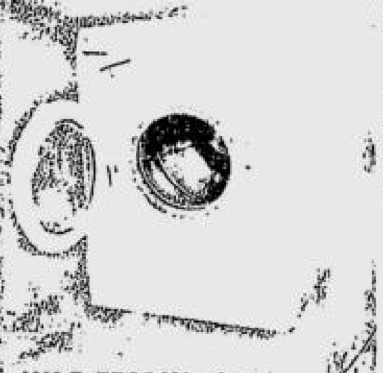

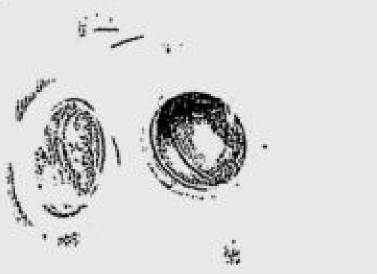

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GMA rules out Ramos probe

By Dona Z. Pazzibugan and Cynthia D. Balana

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo ruled out an investigation of former President Fidel Ramos over the controversial independent power producers (IPP) deals he entered into during his term.

Most of the 35 IPP contracts still existing were recently found to contain onerous provisions.

Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said the President was aware of allegations that the IPP deals brought about the high electricity costs today.

This is the President's statement, Bunye said: "The actions and decisions of President Ramos must be judged in the light of the circumstances prevailing during those difficult times."

The Ramos administration was given emergency powers by Congress to solve the crippling power crisis early in his term.

Ms Macapagal last month ordered a "renegotiation" of some of the IPP contracts as part of her 10-point program to bring down power rates.

Only six contracts passed the review conducted by the departments of finance, energy and justice.

The rest of the contracts had either legal or financial problems; five contracts had both legal and financial issues.

Ms Macapagal, however, assured power firms that her government would not unilaterally cancel the contracts.

She gave this assurance to US Secretary of State Colin Powell last Saturday after the American Chamber of Commerce in the Philippines protested the review's supposed lack of transparency and the trial by publicity given to their members.

Five American firms are reportedly involved in the IPP deals.

In the Senate, opposition Sen. Edgardo Angara said Ramos continued signing IPP contracts even after the World Bank warned the country of a power oversupply in 1994.

Angara said it was never the intention of Congress to grant unlimited signing and contracting powers to Ramos. He said the exercise of emergency powers was good only for one year.

"We never realized that he will be signing so many contracts with the independent power producers," said Angara, who was Senate president from 1993 to 1995.

According to Angara, Ramos signed three IPP contracts for Mindanao worth $300 million in the last few days of his presidency in June 1998.

Angara said the Estrada administration turned down the CBK—IMPSA project which was also worth $300 million because of the sovereign guarantee that the government will grant to loans of the project.

"The economic managers of the Estrada administration were all opposed to the sovereign guarantee provision," he said. "This was the reason, the Estrada administration, did not approve the CBK-IMPSA project."

Angara said that the same project was approved by the Macapagal administration four days after it assumed power.

Senators find 'win-win' solution

By Rocky Nazareno and Cynthia D. Balana

THE SQUABBLING senators yesterday finally returned to regular legislative work, hewing to a prearranged scenario to the letter.

Within 20 minutes, they passed three measures on third and final reading and concurred in the ratification of trade and economic treaties with five nations—their most productive session in months.

"All's well that ends well," Senate President Franklin Drilon said of the outcome of the prearranged scenario.

Drilon also said he was "leaving it to the court" to determine the legitimacy of the "rump" sessions that, he noted, were merely "made of record."

"(The June 3-6 sessions) happened," he said. "You cannot deny that."

The majority and the minority blocs agreed to enter their respective journals in the Senate record to leave the question of validity to historians and scholars in the future.

'Win-win'

Opposition senators were appeased by the compromise solution.

Sen. Edgardo Angara, leader of the opposition, said that by adopting both journals, the senators were able to preserve the record of both blocs on the sine die adjournment of the Senate session on June 3.

"I think it's a win-win solution because they recognized our journal and, in exchange, we recognized theirs. Whichever is valid, we leave that to historians," he said.

Angara said that the sober minds in the Senate prevailed, and that his colleagues in the opposition agreed to accept the formula to put an end to the impasse that had adversely affected the chamber's image.

"This formula is the best and the most practicable. Both sides can feel that this is a good arrangement. When either side thinks that it wins and neither side feels it was unfairly treated, then everybody wins," he said, adding:

"It's a good settlement because it is difficult to continue this (impasse). It's not easy for us (to) always fight in the chamber over technical issues."

Senate Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel said both sides were neither happy nor sad.

"We're just looking at it from the practical point of view," he said.

Prediction

In a statement his office released just before the session, Drilon predicted that a division between the majority and minority would "inevitably lead to a division of the house by the simple raising of hands."

But it appeared that two months after the Senate impasse started, no one among the senators was still in the mood to fight.

While administration Senators Joker Arroyo, Francis Pangilinan and Renato Cayetano registered their objections to the move to approve the journal of the June 3 session, these were only one-line statements.

Picop faces suit over P.5B in back taxes

By Gerald G. Lacuarta

KONSENSIYANG Pilipino (KP), a civil society group, is set to file a complaint before the Bureau of Internal Revenue against giant timber concessionaire Picop Resources Inc. for alleged failure to pay P500 million in back taxes and penalties.

Yllana Cruz, KP head, said this was in response to President Macapagal's order for the BIR to prosecute corporate tax criminals.

Reports that reached the Department of Environment and Natural Resources 14 years ago held Picop liable for misdeclaration of timber species, downgrading of regular logs, production in excess of allowed volume, and late payment of weekly forest charges.

This translated to more than P470 million in losses for the government, the report said.

The 1988 report, prepared by the Economic Intelligence and Investigation Bureau (EIIB) of the Department of Finance, was allegedly ignored, and the EIIB was abolished in February 2000.

DENR said Picop also had unpaid forest charges amounting to P37.36 million, for logs produced in the year 2001.

Picop has been lobbying at the DENR for an expansion of its operations, through the conversion of its Timber Licensing Agreement, which expired last April 25, into an Integrated Forest Management Agreement.

The President reportedly gave Environment Secretary Heherson Alvarez a verbal go-signal for the conversion in October last year.

A militant fisherfolk group, Pambansang Lakas ng Kilusang Mamamalakaya ng Pilipinas urged the President on Sunday to retract the go-signal.

Meanwhile, A group of indigenous "lumads," small tree farmers, and workers based in Surigao del Sur has asked the House of Representatives to probe alleged abuses by Picop.

Mamerto B. Alciso, Jr., counsel for the Masang Alyansa sa Kalamboan sa mga Lumad, presented the group's issues against Picop: land grabbing, labor law violations, violence, and intimidation.

These were the same complaints of the Concerned Citizens and Tree Farmers of Bislig, led by three chieftains, who has also sought the President's help.

Erratum

The zed Logo Loco promo advertisement of Sonera zed which was intended to appear today, August 6, was inadvertently published by the Inquirer yesterday, August 5, on page A25 (Metro section), a day ahead of its scheduled date of publication. The advertiser wishes to clarify that the correct winner for that day (Aug. 5) would be the **14,892nd downloader.**

The Inquirer extends its apologies for any confusion and inconvenience this mistake has caused.

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Palace seeks talks with Saludo over Bañez's case

By Christine O. Avendaño

MALACANANG is reaching out to Southern Leyte Rep. Aniceto Saludo Jr. to help beleaguered Internal Revenue Commissioner Rene Bañez.

Saludo said two persons "close" to Malacañang called him up yesterday to ask him for a dialogue on his accusations against Bañez.

Saludo said it was not clear who wanted to hold a dialogue with him.

"It could be President Macapagal-Arroyo or Bañez," Saludo told the Inquirer.

He said he was open to a dialogue but he told his callers that he didn't think this would resolve anything. He said it would not stop him from pursuing the plunder case he and a group of congressmen are planning to file against Bañez this month.

In a privilege speech last week, Saludo accused Bañez of committing economic plunder by giving favors to companies managed by Manny Pangilinan, CEO of the Philippine Long Distance Co.

Bañez called the accusations against him "rehashed lies."

Chavez: I have not agreed to handle case

By Volt Contreras

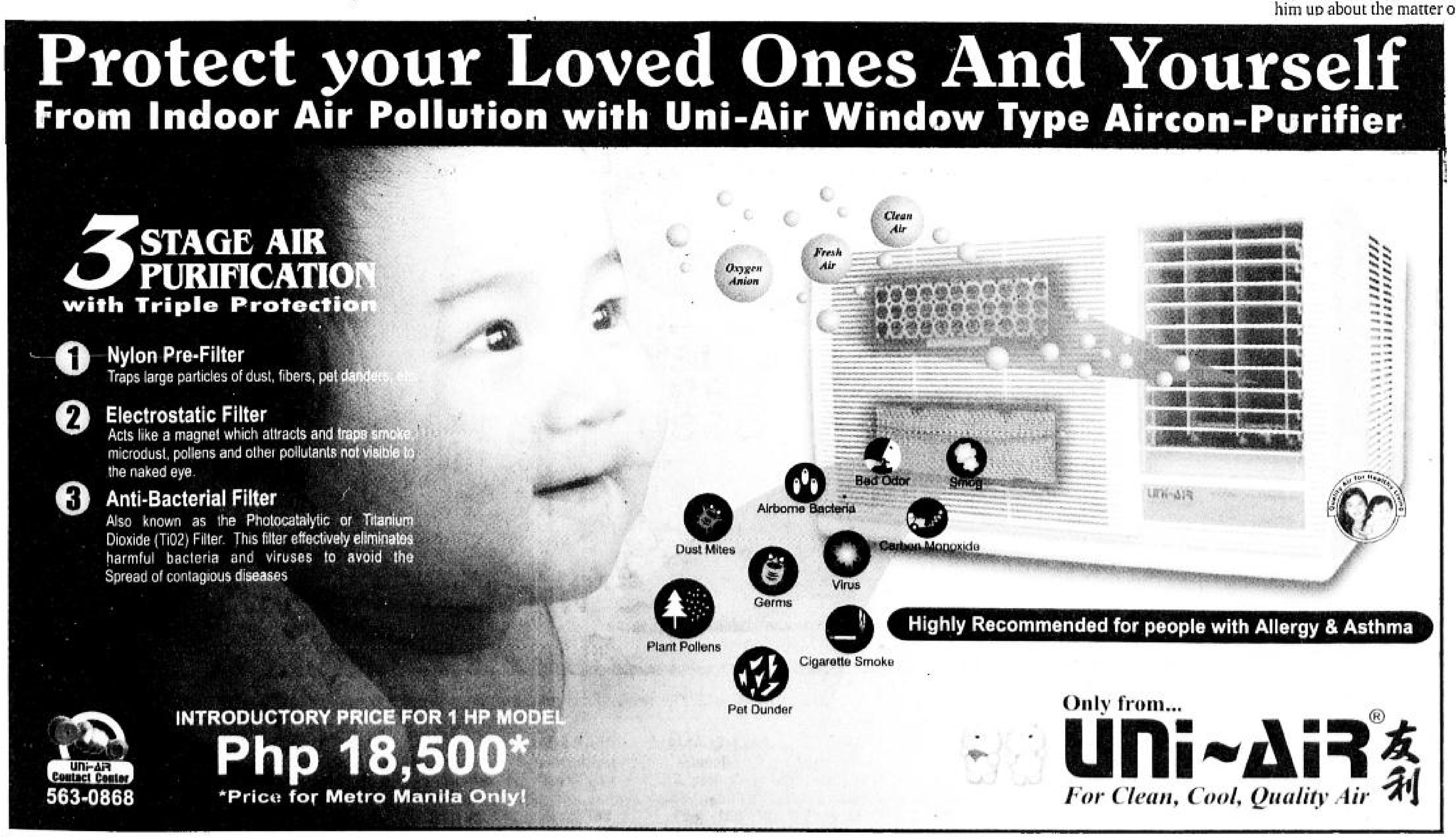
FORMER Solicitor General Frank Chavez yesterday denied reports that he had agreed to handle the criminal cases a group of congressmen had threatened to file against Bureau of Internal Revenue Commissioner Rene Bañez.

Chavez described as "premature" the announcement made last Saturday by Banez's main accuser, Southern Leyte Rep. Aniceto Saludo Jr.

In a phone interview with the Inquirer, he said he had only agreed to "study" for now whatever evidence Saludo may have against the BIR chief.

"If there's basis to proceed with the cases, that's when I will handle them," he said.

But as of yesterday, he said, he has yet to receive any document from Saludo since the latter called him up about the matter on Friday.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South Korean in gold fraud nabbed in RP

A SOUTH Korean man wanted for allegedly making off with $1 million in a gold scam has been arrested in Manila, immigration officials said yesterday.

Lee Bong-goo, 37, who owned a jewelry shop in Seoul, was arrested on Friday after the South Korean Embassy in Manila sought police help, the officials said.

Lee allegedly got two South Koreans to give him money to buy gold bars but fled with the cash to Hong Kong. He then came to Manila in July after learning Seoul authorities had issued an arrest warrant.

He was wanted for large-scale fraud and tax evasion.

Lee, who had been coming to the Philippines as a tourist in recent years, has now been banned from returning, officials said. He was detained at the immigration jail in Manila prior to deportation. *AP*

Ex-Isafp chief: I can make Medel talk

From page A1

Pedro Pates Jr. to the PNP Criminal Investigation and Detection Group or CIDG, it was allegedly Kintanar who was responsible for Medel's recantation.

Kintanar allegedly offered to handle the damage control for Medel.

Kintanar would only admit to paying the rent of Medel's apartment in Kamias, Quezon City. Medel, according to Kintanar, is a distant relative from Cebu. "He is not the only relative and friend from Cebu" whom I give temporary shelter when they're in Manila.

Guilt by association?

"I paid for his apartment, but later on, they paid it on their own. I used the apartment as a warehouse. Does that make me a criminal?" Kintanar said adding, "that's guilt by association."

Curiously, another relative, immigration bureau security consultant Rolly Kintanar, is a witness in the Blanca case.

Was Medel his asset? The elder Kintanar explained that an "asset" connoted "a negative person."

"There's nothing wrong with him being an asset, because assets can be your friend. An asset is someone whom you get information from. If that's the definition, then he's an asset and a friend," explains Kintanar. "But if you mean by asset is that you can order him to do something bad, then Medel is not my asset."

Did Medel call him after he was released after his recantation? Kintanar said Medel called but clarified that "we talked about other matters, not the Blanca case."

Basis for arrest

"This is actually a job now for the investigators, but the way it looks, it appears there is a basis for his arrest and if he did this, I have nothing to do with it," stressed Kintanar.

Kintanar said that throughout his career in the military service, he had encountered many intrigues, but he added, "linking him to the Blanca slaying was sickening."

Last November, the INQUIRER talked to Kintanar when his name surfaced as the owner of the apartment where Medel stayed. At that time he denied having anything to do with the alleged casino financing business of the actress.

"I categorically say that I have anything to do with the killing of Nida Blanca. No witness will tell you that I was present in any of the supposed meetings plotting the killing or discussing damage control," Kintanar told the INQUIRER yesterday.

HARRIET DEMETRIOU: It's not a recantation. EDWIN BACASMAS

No recantation

"There's no recantation," Harriet Demetriou, lawyer for Blanca's daughter Katherine "Kaye" Torres, curtly told reporters in an ambush interview at the CIDG.

Demetriou also said she would submit a manifestation that she be made one of Torres' private prosecutors during the preliminary investigation on Aug. 12.

Medel, who had confessed to killing Blanca and tagged her husband Rod Lawrence Strunk as the mastermind, retracted his sworn statement in an emotional outburst at the Department of Justice on Nov. 23 last year, claiming he was tortured by the police.

CIDG chief Chief Supt. Nestorio Gualberto said "so far no one has testified that Kintanar was present in any of the meetings."

On the development of the case, Gualberto added that the forensic evidence and the earlier testimonies of Medel and even Rod Strunk are parallel. "The testimonies actually bolster the scientific and medical findings of the investigators," Gualberto explained.

2 other witnesses

The CIDG is working on the testimonies of two additional witnesses. The two witnesses, one alias "Bakling" and the second one alias "Mahadera," are allegedly part of the "planning stage of the crime, according to CIDG investigators assigned to the case.

The CIDG first thought that Mahadera was a code name for a female accomplice, but through questioning of the first 12 witnesses in the case, it turned out that Mahadera is a man.

Bakling on the other hand is a former local government official in one of the provinces in Mindanao. Both Bakling and Mahadera, according to CIDG sources, will testify that Medel and Strunk knew each other and even joined them at a karaoke bar, a few nights before the actual commission of the crime.

The same CIDG source told the INQUIRER that aside from the missing copy of the original last will of Blanca, another set of documents kept by Blanca could be the "motive" for the killing of the veteran actress.

Torres satisfied

In a letter to the INQUIRER, Demetriou said that NBI Director Reynaldo Wycoco had informed her that Medel never executed "a formal or written statement" of recantation.

She was reacting to Justice Undersecretary Manuel Teehankee's statement "which gives the impression that Philip Medel's recantation was valid and that the only issue left to be resolved by the Department of Justice is whether or not this would weaken the National Bureau of Investigation."

Gualberto, for his part, requested ABS-CBN Channel 2 and GMA-7 to furnish him a copy of their taped interviews of Medel's confession following his surrender on Nov. 18 last year.

Torres, who along with Demetriou and Blanca's longtime friend, Elena dela Paz, held a meeting with the CIDG and NBI officials at Gualberto's office, said she was satisfied with the "new developments" in the case.

"I'm very glad that it's moving forward. After waiting for almost nine months now, at least something is happening," she said.

Torres was referring to the testimonies of new CIDG witnesses Pates Jr. and security officer Nilo Gonzaga, who said that Medel had asked them if they knew a hired gun who could be contracted to kill an actress.

Pates said he had gone to Medel's rented apartment in Kamias, Quezon City, sometime in October last year to see if he could live there. Gonzaga, on the other hand, was a roommate of Medel.

The statements of Pates and Gonzaga were submitted to the DOJ as supplementary evidence to the murder charges filed against Strunk, Medel and several others for the killing of Blanca.

The actress was found dead inside her car at the Atlanta Center building in San Juan on the morning of Nov. 7 last year.

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SEC backs protection for plan holders

From page A1

told reporters yesterday.

It was Trade Secretary Manuel Roxas II who proposed last week the creation of an investor protection fund for the pre-need industry.

Roxas pushed for the establishment of the protection fund amid the reported P2.59-billion trust fund deficiency of College Assurance Plan Philippines Inc., the country's biggest pre-need company.

A trust fund deficiency puts in doubt the ability of a pre-need company to pay benefits to plan holders in the future.

Bautista said putting up a mechanism similar to the PDIC would require funding from government. She also said that a law must be passed so that the investor protection fund for the pre-need industry could be set up.

Efforts by the pre-need industry, through the Philippine Federation of Pre-need Plan Companies Inc., to create a fund did not succeed because some companies believed that they should not subsidize the mistakes of other firms.

In case of bank closure, depositors have the PDIC to run to. There is no similar institution that plan holders can turn to when pre-need companies fail, according to Roxas. A bank depositor can recover up to P100,000 of his deposits should a bank close down.

Data from the SEC show that a total of 92,000 plan holders are holding on to pre-need contracts valued at P2.7 billion that can no longer be serviced by 13 pre-need companies that have ceased operations.

At present, only 45 pre-need companies are licensed to sell pre-need plans, down from more than 100 in 1999.

The pre-need industry, which markets education, pension and memorial plans mainly to middle-income families, has sold a total of almost 6 million plans valued at P260 billion since 1966.

In 2001 alone, pre-need firms sold more than P39 billion worth of plans.

CAP General Insurance

A member of the CAP group of companies is facing problems settling a multimillion-peso obligation to a client.

The non-life insurance unit of the CAP group has failed to fulfill its promise to settle a P68-million obligation to Airedeh Realty Corp.

The settlement was a condition for the renewal of the license of CAP General Insurance last year, a stockholder of the property firm said.

In an interview, Miguel Heredia, whose family owns Airedeh, said the Insurance Commission should recall the CAP General's license because it did not meet the condition.

Last year, the Insurance Commission withheld the license of CAP General for not paying Airedeh the P68-million bond covering a purchase of a property that the insurance company had guaranteed.

The Insurance Commission, however, agreed to renew CAP General's license after a meeting with CAP's Enrique Sobrepeña. CAP General had assured the commission that it would settle the obligation.

"He (Insurance Commissioner Eduardo Malinis) should recall the renewal. Sobrepeña promised he was going to fix it. But up to now he has not kept his side of the deal," Heredia said.

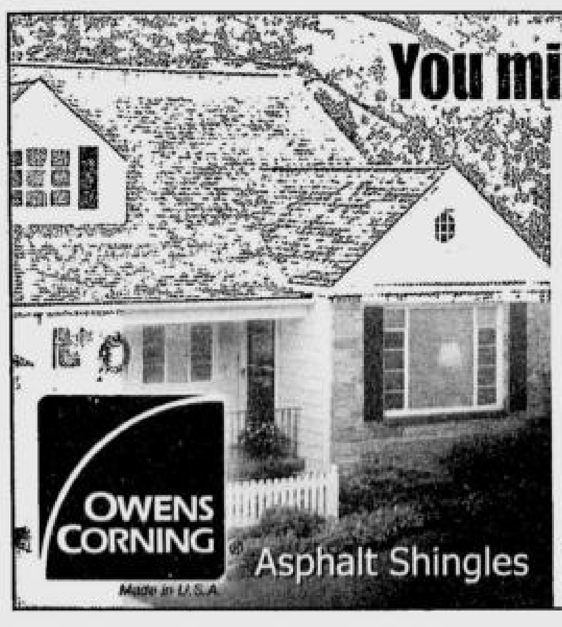
Tired of waiting for CAP's payment, Paul Heredia took legal action against CAP General early this year over the objections of other family members.

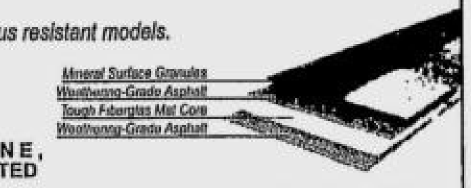
CAP General issued last year a surety bond guaranteeing the obligations of Reiden Development Management and Marketing Corp., which agreed to buy from Aidereh a property on Quezon Boulevard in Quezon City for P80 million.

After a down payment of P12 million, Reiden defaulted on its payment. Aidereh then asked CAP Insurance to pay its obligation. But CAP General refused. It turned out that the insurance company failed to properly secure the bond with the property or other assets of Reiden.

Malinis, for his part, said the Insurance Commission could not do anything while there was a pending case.

The Insurance Commission earlier ruled that CAP General owed Airedeh.





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OPINION

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Promises, promises

EDITORIAL

IT WAS payback time for the Philippines last Saturday, but all it got from the United States were general, polite statements and no firm commitments. It was a *consuelo de bobo* (small consolation), indeed, as Bayan Muna Rep. Satur Ocampo put it. Is this any way to treat a friend, a steadfast ally of the United States in its international war against terrorism?

US Secretary of State Colin Powell did not give any assurance that the Philippines would get the same zero tariff given to Andean tuna from South America. President Macapagal-Arroyo told him that Philippine tuna, which pays a 6 to 12 percent tariff, was at a disadvantage against Andean tuna. She said that 100,000 residents of General Santos and Cotabato cities depended on the tuna industry.

Powell at first probably did not see the connection between the tuna industry and the security situation in Mindanao. But the President implied that if the people in the tuna industry lose their livelihood, they might join the Abu Sayyaf terrorists. Powell then said that he would see the matter through the executive and legislative branches of the US government.

There was no firm commitment, either, on President Macapagal's request for a more humane treatment of Filipinos facing deportation from the United States. He only said that he would relay her sentiments to the concerned US agencies.

Recently, 63 Filipino deportees were handcuffed during the entire flight from the United States aboard a chartered plane. The scene was reminiscent of "Con Air," a movie showing hardened American criminals, killers and rapists among them, chained while they were being flown by a special plane from one prison to another. The Filipino deportees were not hardened criminals but just overstaying aliens.

Here was how Powell responded to the other issues:

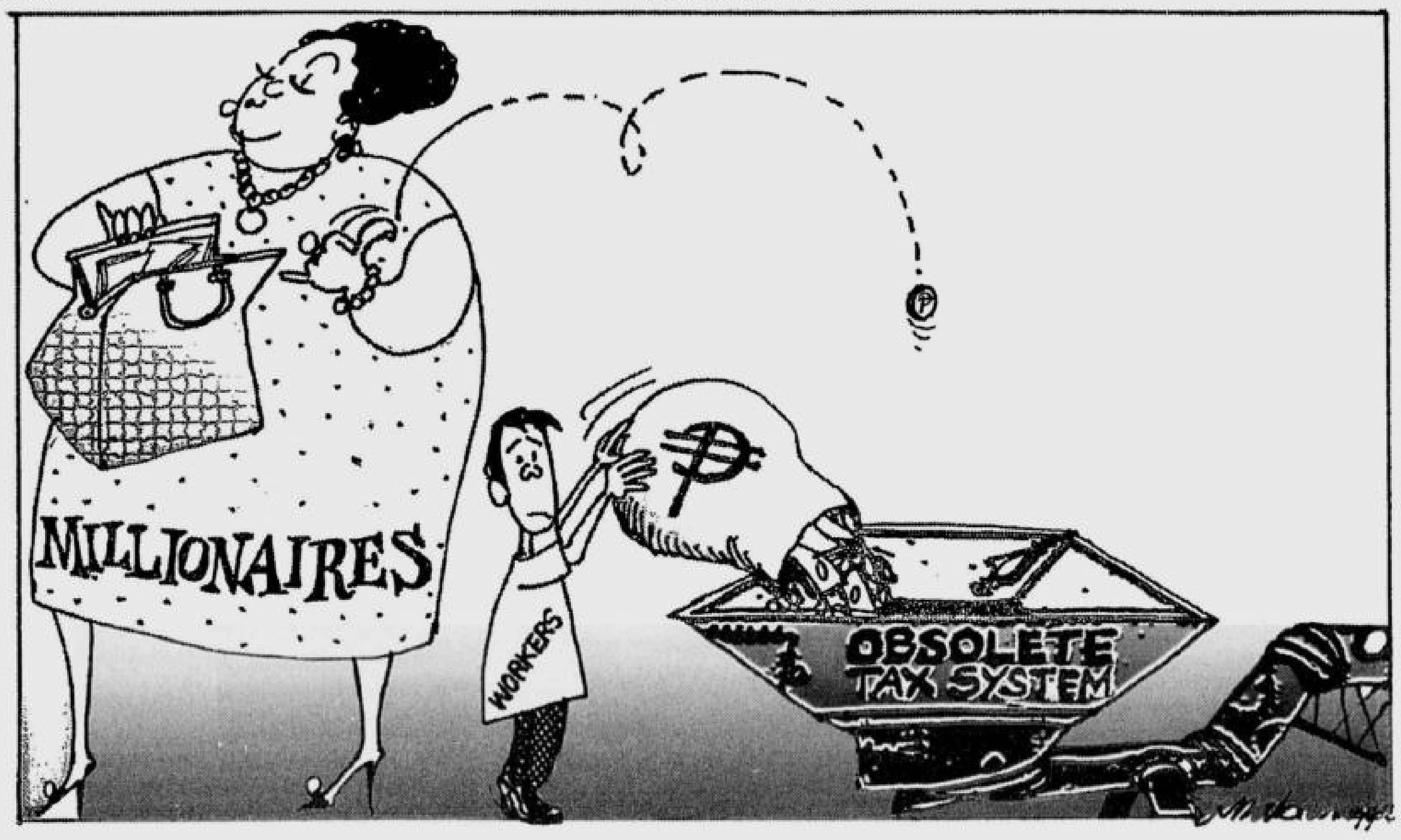
- Amnesty for overstaying Filipinos in the United States. Powell only said he would tell the US departments concerned about the RP request. The President noted that Mexico was trying to get amnesty for overstaying Mexicans in the United States. If overstaying Mexicans are granted amnesty, the same privilege should be granted to overstaying Filipinos.
- The problem of toxic waste in the former US bases. Powell promised US help in resolving the problem but made no specific commitments.

The US has a legal obligation to clean up the pollution in its former bases, but it seems to be dragging its feet. Granting, for the sake or argument, that the US does not have a legal obligation, under the general principle that the polluter either cleans up or pays, it has a moral obligation to clean up the pollution.

- The faster processing of the benefits of Filipino veterans who fought with the US forces in World War II. Powell said this would be considered. Again, here the US is dragging its feet. Meanwhile, many of the veterans are dying of disease or old age. Perhaps the Americans should be reminded that had the Filipinos not made a gallant stand on Corregidor and in Bataan, Japan could have invaded continental United States.
- The lifting of the US travel advisory warning American citizens against visiting the Philippines. Powell only said, "My bias is always in favor of lifting it." Visitors to the US face even graver threats to their safety and security after 9/11 and yet the Philippines has not issued a travel advisory. The US should immediately lift its advisory and help revive the tourism industry of a close ally.

The Philippines will get a total of $155 million in military and economic aid from the United States in exchange for its support for the latter's global anti-terrorism campaign. The extra $55 million intended for the campaign against terrorism is still being worked out. But even this is a pittance compared to the $600 million the US gave to Pakistan in exchange for its support for the same campaign.

On one hand, the President's virtually announcing that it was "payback time" makes it appear that the Philippines' support for the global anti-terrorism war was given for a mercenary reason. On the other hand, it makes the Philippines appear like a beggar again. Here we are, begging for crumbs from the table of rich and mighty Uncle Sam, and again we are given general statements, and promises, promises and more promises.



How to prevent taxes from being diverted

(*Continued from yesterday*)

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

ON THE SECOND year of President Macapagal-Arroyo's borrowed presidency, we are being hit by a double whammy: tax collections are decreasing and what taxes are collected are increasingly being stolen. No wonder we have one of the biggest deficit in our history. For the first time in two decades, the tax collection shortfall is double digit for the first six months: P33.4 billion. Also a first was that the collection of the Bureau of Internal Revenue as of April this year was less than that of the previous year. In the words of Southern Leyte Rep. Aniceto Saludo, "This is the worst record of the BIR in the post-war era."

The mid-year budget deficit has ballooned to P120 billion, just P10 billion short of the targeted ceiling of P130 billion for the year. And we have five months of spending to go.

The two major tax collection arms of the government, the BIR and the Bureau of Customs, are way below their collection targets. Curiously, instead of cracking the whip on the collectors, the President has been very lenient. In fact, she even praised Revenue Commissioner Rene Bañez during her State of the Nation Address. At the BOC, she had appointed an outsider, customs broker Gil Valera, to the position of deputy commissioner for revenue collection and monitoring, which was not vacant. The occupant was a tenured career BOC official with no graft case against her and therefore could not be replaced except for cause. Yet she was forcibly replaced. When the courts ordered her reinstatement, she was restored as deputy commissioner—but for administration, not for revenue collection—which is still in contempt of court.

Curiously, when Bañez and Valera were put in charge of revenue collection in the BIR and the BOC, respectively, collections dropped drastically. It cannot be because of the economic depression. President Macapagal herself said the Philippine economy is the "best performing in Asia today." In fact, she scolded Bañez for citing economic depression as an excuse for the decrease in collections. If the economy is improving, then tax collections should be going up instead of down. So why are they going down? And why is the President not sore but is, on the contrary, indulgent to her tax collectors?

I don't believe this but could it be, as some sectors have suggested, that the two tax collectors have assignments perhaps connected to the 2004 campaign? Is it possible that the taxes are not being collected for the national government but for something else? Fund raising seems to be the preoccupation of administration leaders—dinners here, donations there—but for the government? Is the impending overpayment to SGS also part of that fund raising?

I don't know the answers. I hope they are all in the negative.

Anyway, Representatives Saludo and Enrique Garcia of Bataan during the Kapihan sa Sulo last Saturday laid the blame for the tax shortfalls and the tax diversions on the government. While Saludo blamed them on the "corruption and conflict of interest" of BIR's Bañez, Garcia blamed the obsolete and defective tax collection system, which the national government, specifically the Department of Finance "for reasons known only to it, refused to modify."

"The biggest single factor that prevents the BIR and the BOC from efficiently collecting taxes and duties and preventing tax diversions is their lack of a basic Management Information System (MIS) that will give the actual total amounts they collect as soon as possible, broken down by tax/duty and taxpayer," said Garcia. "How can they go about collecting if, to start with, they do not know what taxes/duties have been paid and what are still collectible?"

It is for this reason that for the last six years the government has been pursuing a P5-billion computerization program for the BIR and the BOC. Sad to say, up to this day, the program has not come up with such basic MIS, notwithstanding the P3 billion already spent for its development, Garcia lamented. What the program has now is an electronic payment system that covers only 40 percent of total collection.

Garcia has proposed a system that would make the government know immediately how much taxes and duties have been paid and by whom, and thus also prevent tax diversion.

Tax diversions are done by syndicates in connivance with bank personnel. First, a fictitious deposit account is opened in the bank branch and an unfunded third-party check is deposited, with an amount exactly corresponding to the amount of the intercepted check payable to either the BIR or the BOC. The unfunded third-party check is then replaced by the intercepted check payable to BIR or BOC, which will be the one presented for clearing to the Philippine Clearing House Corp. (PCHC) of the Bangko Sentral (BSP). After the prescribed clearing period of three days, the entire amount is withdrawn and the fictitious account is closed.

This becomes possible because the BIR and BOC do not know what and how much has been paid to them until much later, thus giving the syndicates time to divert the taxes.

But under Garcia's proposal, accredited agent banks (AABs) will be required to reflect and record their collections of BIR taxes and BOC duties as demand deposits of the Bureau of Treasury, rather than as payables. (Demand deposits are withdrawable immediately whereas payables are paid by the banks in amounts and at times as they wish.) Although the collections may be coursed to any branch of the AAB, the amount will be credited directly to the Treasury's deposit account which will be maintained only in the head offices of the AABs.

Season of grief

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

It's not just that the best and brightest are leaving the country in droves for other shores. It's that the best and brightest are leaving this wretched vale of tears in droves forever.

This year has been especially cruel in depleting our ranks of truly distinguished men and women. Doubly so because nearly all of them have come from the arts, the noblest of professions. And the only exception was no mean writer himself. We're just past the first half of this year, and already we've suffered six epic losses. Early this year, we lost two musical giants in Lucio San Pedro and Levi Celerio, composer and lyricist respectively. Then only last month, we lost Doreen Fernandez and Larry Alcala, literary critic and cartoonist respectively. And now Franz Arcellana and Boni Gillego.

It's not just that they're going in twos, it's also quite uncannily that they're going in pairs-that is, as representatives of a particular facet of life, cultural or otherwise. San Pedro and Celerio were musical icons, and had in fact collaborated on one song, "Sa Ugoy ng Duyan." Fernandez and Alcala were standouts in popular culture, in the best sense of the term, "popular." Doreen wasn't just a literature professor, she was also a well-read food writer, the one flowing into the other like (good) wine. And Alcala, well, you can't have a bigger icon of popular culture than he.

Boni and Franz, too, had more in common than that, equally uncannily, as I learned during Boni's wake, they shared the same final hours on earth on the same spot of earth. They had adjacent units at the National Kidney and Transplant Institute. Both represent something that is fast disappearing from our life today. It is more than Old World charm, though they had plenty of it. It is even more than a dedication to craft or profession. It is a dedication to truth and beauty. It is a passionate embracing of life.

The people who spoke at Franz's wake were lush in their praise of his writing and teaching. And they were right. Franz was a gifted writer and a brilliant teacher, if you reckon both as the power to inspire and touch people. How well—and how long—he did that you see in the diversity of the crowd that came to his wake: from struggling writer to national artist, from student to professor, from callow youth to yellowed contemporaries, or such of them as were still around to mourn him. Throughout his 85 years on earth, he gave everyone he met something of himself, he left everyone who came within the ambit of his light some glow of it. And they all came in remembrance of it, thanking him for it. If the measure of a human life is not how long it is lived but how well it is lived, then you have sheer plenitude here. If the weight of a life is not how much it occupies but how much it leaves behind, then we have sheer monument here.

I myself think the one great and lasting thing Franz has done for all of us has been to keep the spirit of writing alive in this country. In all that writing signifies. For those who write, a level of discipline and pride and aspiration that it entails. Someone once told Andres Segovia after a concert, "I'd give my life to be able to play like that." Segovia answered, "I have." Franz might have said the same thing to those who told him they'd give their lives to be able to touch people like that.

For those who read what others write, a shock of realization that literature is not just a subject you pass, *pasang awa* or with flying colors, it is not something you pass the time with, for diversion or amusement, it is something you embrace, like a child or lover. It is not something you consume and spit out to impress and look erudite, it is something you breathe into your soul, like a gaseous incandescence. Literature is not something that makes you win "Game na Game," it is something that stokes you to gentleness and sparks you into a generosity of spirit.

Franz's very life was his masterpiece, his most lasting lesson to his students who are all of us. He lived as he wrote, he lived as he taught.

So did Bonifacio Gillego, who is the only non-artist here but only in the technical sense of the term. His life was one dazzling work of art, dedicated to exposing evil where it lurked, dedicated to revealing good where nobody thought to find it. And he did so in language that would have made many writers weep. He was no mean writer himself, as I said, and that owed as much to talent as to truth being known to make even the mute eloquent. He was the one who exposed Marcos' medals as fake, researching in America even while keeping body and soul together doing odd jobs, among them as security guard. Franz unearthed the truth that lay beneath the seeming fiction, Boni exposed the fiction that lay behind the seeming truth. It was his exposé that finally felled martial law, hewing down the myth upon which the fiction lay. Without it, Marcos might never have cut, and cut cleanly.

But if Boni was uncompromising about principle during Marcos' time, he was uncompromising about principle after Marcos' time, refusing to be silent in the face of iniquity—and consequently falling out of grace with the government he helped spawn. He lived a simple life, finding boundless reward in the joy his labors brought to him, a fact his constituents in Sorsogon appreciated enough to keep sending him again and again to Congress. If the measure of life is not the amount of money one amasses but the wealth of wisdom one bequeaths to others, then here is riches beyond compare. If the weight of life is not the power one uses to force others to submit but the power one wields to free others, then here is an explosion of life itself.

Here lie two good men. We cannot have a bigger loss than that.

Bernardino's checkered record in business

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

IN A RECENT speech, his first since his resignation as foreign secretary, Vice President Teofisto Guingona said the country continued to be poor despite foreign investments because it lacked productivity and did not tap the possibilities its people had, He opined that many foreign investors exploited our resources and workers since they failed to transfer technology, modernize our plants and use our raw materials. Niether did they develop the necessary backward and forward linkages. He lamented that in a competitive world, the Philippines has long lost once-famous local brands like "Ang Tibay" and "Elpo Shoes," as well as control of the cement, pharmaceutical and even food industry.

* * *

As the Guingona sees it, the solution to poverty lies in stimulating and sustaining development at the local level, which means devolving much of the power and resources from the national government to the local government units. He advocates empowering the governors, city and municipal mayors and barangays, by giving the LGUs as much as 50 percent of internal revenue collection, the official development assistance (ODA) of foreign donors and the fees collected from airports, fish ports and road users, as well as the proceeds of the sale of government assets. He also wants the national government to give up as much as 50 percent of the idle lands in favor of the LGUs. With such revenue and asset support to the LGUs, Guingona believes they can stimulate economic activities, float bonds, borrow, undertake joint ventures and go into infrastructure projects with professional managers.

Actually Guingona's proposal is not new as the spirit of local empowerment is enshrined in the Local Government Code authored principally by Sen. Aquilino Pimentel. The problem is more the understandable resistance of the national government to such devolution of power and resources. It would be interesting to see how he would push this idea if he should accept the job of Mindanao czar.

* * *

In his Manila Times column on the running feud between Environment Secretary Heherson Alvarez and Teodoro Bernardino of Picop Resources Inc., Tony Lopez expressed surprise "that 71.9 percent of a company that controls 180,000 hectares of valuable Philippine forests (part of our patrimony) is in the hands of people we don't know from Adam." But then, he opined, "that's the way government operates. Transparency, hah hah."

Interestingly, more revelations have surfaced in the media about the Bernardino group that controls Picop, and they're not flattering. In fact, with the new information, the question that arises is: Why is he so *malakas* with the Asset Privatization Trust? A related question is, why is Surigao Rep. Prospero Pichay lawyering for him?

* * *

Bernardino recently figured in a publicity brawl with Alvarez when the latter refused to grant Picop an "unconditional automatic conversion" of its old timber license agreement (TLA), which lapsed last April, into an integrated forest management agreement (Ifma), unless it fulfilled certain conditions. Alvarez said Picop has to pay its back taxes amounting to over P37 million and penalty charges on its misdeclaration of logs cut amounting to nearly P500 million over three years. Instead of negotiating with DENR for a temporary agreement, however, Bernardino snubbed Alvarez's summons and instead sent Pichay to opposed his confirmation at the Commission on Appointments and in the media, Alvarez said. The two claim that Alvarez tried to extort money from Picop in exchange for the Ifma. He has sued them both for libel.

* * *

Now another case has surfaced, this time in Sipalay City, Negros Occidental. A news item appeared last July 30 in Sun-Star Bacolod which quoted Negros Gov. Joseph Maranon as saying that the provincial government wanted to take over the 37-MW diesel-fired power plant operated by the Maricalum Mining Corp. (MMC) to help bring down the cost of electric power in two cities and one municipality. It would also be part of MMC's payment for unpaid taxes amounting to P85 million. MMC was acquired by Bernardino's group from the APT, but there are rumors that the APT was never fully paid by MMC.

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That's not all. According to lawyer Jose Lapak Jr., who serves as counsel for some 1,000 employees, MMC owes them some P169 million in back wages and wage differentials from 1996 to 2000, following an award order by the Department of Labor and Employment, which was upheld by the Court of Appeals and the Supreme Court. Lapak said the DOLE ruled in favor of the employees after it accused MMC of engaging in unfair labor practices and illegal dismissals. Lapak pointed out that the DOLE order was in the process of execution when MMC suddenly closed shop in May 2001. The union succeeded in seizing assets, consisting of two trucks, but even this was thwarted by a new company called G (Holdings), which took over after claiming to have lent MMC P450 million. A closer examination of its books, however, showed that G (Holdings) was controlled by Bernardino's people, with assets of only P400,000.

Apparently the Picop president has also run afoul of the DENR's Mines and Geodetic Bureau, which issued a cease-and-desist order after the life span of its tailings pond in Sipalay expired. Bernardino was also said to have threatened former Negros Gov. Lito Coscolluela he would shut down MMC, a move which would have cut off electric supply to three municipalities being serviced by its 37 mGw diesel plant. Coscolluela was reportedly angered by this threat and told Bernardino to straighten out his operations instead.

Political unity on family planning

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

AT THIS time when political differences have become so marked that in the Senate the members segregate themselves into "pro-GMA" and "anti-GMA" camps even during mealtimes, seldom do you see legislators getting together to take a common stand.

But that's what's happened in the matter of government policy on population. Recently, legislators from both the administration and opposition blocs who comprise the Philippine Legislators' Committee on Population and Development Foundation-Inc. (PLCPD) issued a position paper calling for a more explicit policy on population and development and greater support for the government's family planning and reproductive health program.

Led by its chairs, Sen. Rodolfo Biazon in the Senate and Rep. Bellaflor Angara-Castillo from the House of Representatives, PLCPD is spearheading a signature campaign in the legislature in support of the position paper. Among the early signatories are Rep. Josefina Joson, Rep. Wilfrido Villarama, Rep. Oscar Moreno, Rep. Imee Marcos, Rep. Gilbert Remulla and more than 30 other congresspersons and senators.

The PLCPD position paper criticized the government for its lack of a clear policy "in addressing the problem of a growing population and limiting the method of contraception to couples by campaigning only for natural family planning." The statement also criticized President Macapagal for "not acknowledging the problem... despite appeals made by various sectors and several reporters showing the gravity of the issue."

"The Arroyo administration could not ignore the magnitude of these problems. Doing so would be a disservice to the people she has vowed to lead into prosperity," the PLCPD statement said.

* * *

IN THE statement, the PLCPD urged the administration to act on six measures that have to do with population and development:

- **For the President to give priority to a legislative policy which would ensure the integration of population variables into the sustainable development process.**
- **Enactment of a law ensuring full respect for couples' reproductive rights and health by providing access and information to a full range of effective family planning methods.**
- **Allocation of a specific budget line item for family planning in the General Appropriations Act, to cover up for the impending USAID cutoff.**
- **Ensure that funds for family planning and reproductive health are utilized to promote all methods and not only for natural family planning.**
- **Establish local population offices that would encourage local governments to formulate population and development programs.**
- **Re-enlist Levonorgestrel 750 mcg (Postinor) as a registered emergency contraception drug.**

The law ensuring "full respect for couples' reproductive rights and health" is deemed especially necessary in the light of recent undemocratic actions taken by local governments. In Laguna during the term of Gov. Joey Lina, and now in Manila and Puerto Princesa, local ordinances forbid health personnel from dispensing drugs or devices, providing services, or even sharing information about modern family planning methods except for natural family planning.

I once asked the city health officer of Manila what health center personnel tell women who come to them desperate for family planning advice but who are unable to convince their husbands to practice NFP. With a shrug, she said they simply "tell them to see a private doctor or go to a national hospital like Fabella." This, even if the women pay taxes in Manila, and have a right to the full range of health services, including reproductive health?

* * *

IF SOME local governments are taking draconian measures to limit the family planning options of women and men, others have been emboldened to take a more visible and active stance to promote family planning in their areas.

Last week, I wrote of the "National Family Planning Day" celebration at the Marikina River Banks where the focus was on the promotion of permanent methods of contraception, vasectomy and ligation in particular. The Marikina celebration was notable for the active role played by the city government under Mayor Marides Fernando, with local health personnel going around the different barangays recruiting family planning acceptors days before the event itself.

In Negros Oriental, a multi-sectoral coalition of health personnel, academics, non-government and local community leaders, youth, local officials, professionals and the media launched the Negros Oriental Family Planning and Reproductive Health Advocacy Network (NeOFPRHAN). Organizers say the network "envisions health and productive Oriental Negrense families and communities...

"• where reproductive health has promoted responsible parenthood toward improvement in the quality of life;

"• where male involvement in FP/RH programs is visible;

"• where FP/RH programs are accessible for men, women and youth."

* * *

SIGNIFICANT during the launch of the network was the presence of top provincial officials. Gov. George Arnaiz led a parade participated in by the network members, other FP/RH advocacy networks from the towns Tanjay and Manjuyod, as well as representatives of NGOs and youth organizations.

Other officials taking part in the launch were Vice Governor Jose Baldado, Board Members Marcelo Adanza, Arturo Umbac and Ernesto Tijing, Bacog Mayor Lenin Alviola, Dumaguete City Vice Mayor William Ablong, Mayor Valente Yap of Bindoy, Mayor Victoriano dela Cruz of Amian, Mayor Rodolfo Gonzales of Valencia, Vice Mayor Manuel Sy of Manjuyod and other local government representatives.

The Cave of the Skulls

SENSE AND SENSIBILITY

Bambi L. Harper

(*Following is a free translation of Juan Guerra's "From Manila to Albay."*)

AT MIDNIGHT on April 7, 1880, we embarked on a *falua*, placing scales, keys, picks, pikes, bars, and other instruments we thought necessary to explore the coasts of the celebrated canal that divides the islands of Batan and Cagraray on the boat that would follow us.

A fresh land breeze bloated the triangular sail of our skiff and a light maneuver put us en route toward the coasts of Manito in the far horizon. After a while on the port side rose the gigantic colossus of the Strait of San Bernardino, while from the prow we saw the grand semicircular mouth that forms the coast of Legazpi.

We arrived at Cabo del Diablo, which is known in maritime charts as Lesno, where many ships have sunk. (The locals, knowing the risks of rounding it during the northeast monsoons, believe it is under the aegis of Satan.) It is so dangerous that insurance houses will not issue coverage during those months for the port of Legazpi.

Our objective was to see Cuevas de las Calaveras (the Cave of Skulls) and we were fortunate to have with us a friend familiar with the most notable of them. The outlines of the opening of Cagraray were becoming clearer by the moment. Entering the waters of Sula, we began to admire the innumerable beauties at the bottom of the sea that was only three feet under the keel of the boat.

As we turned the small end of Sula, instinctively all of us stared at the strange configuration of two little mountains that were united by a rock forming a vertical span, a natural bridge. As we approached, we could see a crevice whose entrance was decorated by perforations and fanciful edges. It took half an hour to reach the foot of the crag. Half an hour more of struggle to evade the rocks followed. The crevice or crack was eight meters above the level of the sea. According to our guide, this was the entrance to the Cave of the Skulls.

It seemed impossible that death could have found a more imposing site, wilder, more inhospitable and more mysterious than that calcified monolith that remained standing due to a feat of equilibrium, its collapse seemingly prevented by innumerable *baletes* whose twisting and multiple roots formed links that joined one by one the infinite cracks that time and the waters had eroded in that fantastic sarcophagus into whose entrance continuously bellowed the savage voice of the great Pacific.

What we found awesome terrorized our guides and fear showed through their bronze visages and their frightened stares. They refused to step on the rocks until offerings were prepared for the spirit of death. Permission was granted. Resinous torches were lit, before which coconut husks with oil and some bamboo canisters with rice that were to be left as offerings inside the cave were placed. The guides implored the spirit of death to pardon them, for had it been up to them, they would not have desecrated his mansion but they were merely obeying orders.

The stairs were put in place and we climbed them avidly. The last step revealed the interior of the cavern. The walls, the dome and the floor constituted a vision from the most fantastic dreams of "A Thousand and One Nights." The opening allowed enough light so that we could appreciate all the details. Thousands of years had formed the designs on the strange and monstrous groups of silica, protected by the sharp and perforating points of stalactites that threatened our heads and not any less the irregular stalagmites whose arms arose to meet their sisters and tortured our feet with their crests.

In all the hollows of the rock a great number of human cadavers had been deposited. Who had placed them there? From what race had they come? The silence and death surrounded us in that mysterious necropolis. At first we did not touch them thinking we would be profaning the history of the race buried in the forgetfulness of an eternal night.

To the grandeur of death was united the grandeur of the mystery. Finally we examined one of the skulls. Its strange configuration made us doubt its origins. The great flattening corroborated once more our theory that these were from some ancient Malay tribe some of whom would press the soft skulls of their newly born children with small slats of wood.

The only other skulls of this type were found in places where the Chinese established a settlement. In the Philippines neither tradition nor history gave the smallest ray of illumination about such a race that indubitably lived in the forests, fought in its fields, and finally was extinguished on its soil, searching beforehand protected retreats to sleep that eternal sleep. (Six craniums found in that cave were exhibited in the Exposition of 1894 in Spain.)

It is known that many Orientals believe that death is a journey that needs various provisions. Thus we found and gathered ancient fragments of different jars and plates which without doubt had been broken by falling rocks. One of the skeletons had a bracelet made from the pith of the Manati, indicated that these indeed were the remains of a Malay warrior. The hoop or rim was of one piece and its insertion into the wrist often involved a painful operation. The bracelet once installed and fixed could not be removed and whoever earned that distinction took it with him to the grave.

That look

YOUNG BLOOD

Dewey Joseph Yap

We want to know what the young are thinking about. What are their thoughts on current issues? We welcome contributions from the twentysomething and below.—Ed.

THERE you go again. How I hate you sometimes.

Just now you gave me the look. God help me, I'm beginning to despise that look. It's the look you've perfected, probably for me, the one that says, "Don't give him a thought. He's young and impressionable."

You just don't get it. Don't you? I hate being the object of condescension. I hate being told that what I'm doing is wrong—even when it is wrong. I hate that smugness you positively reek with. (Does that come with age?) I hate the fact that you don't treat me as an equal. I hate the fact that to you I will always be young and therefore inferior.

Were you never young? Maybe that's what the years do to people: they forget, and they forget that they've forgotten.

So I don't read as much as you did when you were still a child or a teenager (I'm surprised you remember those years at all). So I listen to what you so derisively call "noise" even though you drove your own parents crazy with your generation's "music." So I don't dress "properly." But frankly, your taste in clothes is abominable, so I don't listen to your unsolicited advice.

I do what I do just like you did what you used to. Last time I checked, this was still a free country. Or could you be the product of your own repressed culture?

You ask if I am bitter? No, not a bit. Well, maybe.

You don't listen. You hear my words but you do not get what I mean. What you hear you interpret according to purposes that suit you. You see me certain things and I can almost hear your mind whirring and wondering, "What it is this time?"

You don't talk to me. You talk to the wall behind me, or the flower vase. And you say the most annoying things like: "It's just a stage." "Hmmm, a mood swing." "He'll grow out of it." "Must be hormones."

You're right, of course. Sometimes. All right, maybe most of the time. But I don't particularly enjoy your rubbing it in. And however much you deny it, you don't know everything.

You scoff at my idealism, at the beliefs I hold on to, if only to keep my sanity in the world. You think I know nothing of the real world, while you've discovered all the secrets of the universe.

You're wrong. I know more than you think. Believe it.

You think you know everything there is to know about me? You don't. I hurt, too. More than you think possible. I don't show it; I'll die first before I do. When I hurt I keep it hidden. Why should I show you my pain when you don't show me yours? All I see—or all you allow me to see—is your all-knowing, all-understanding mockery.

I'm not faultless, I know. And I know I'm too proud for my own good. Sometimes. Well, maybe a lot of times. But my pride is all I have in the face of your arrogance, and your haughtiness and condescension.

I can be arrogant, too, and haughty and condescending. Sometimes. Well, maybe a lot of times. What can I say? I believe in fighting fire with fire.

I'm always changing, inconstant, inconsistent. No rhyme or reason can explain the transitions. I'm not a psychology book you can read at your convenience. But in my book, it's called spontaneity. Do you know the word?

You're all soured up. Your mouth's disfigured because it's always pressed together in disapproval.

You're old. You don't scare me anymore. Well, not like you used to, anyway.

Remember this: Your wisdom of the years does not apply to me. Not by a long shot.

Maybe one day you'll see. Maybe one day you'll understand. Or maybe you already do, but you're just being as stubborn like me.

I'm young. I'm restless. And don't give me that look.

Dewey Joseph Yap, 20, is a journalism junior at the University of the Philippines and an Inquirer scholar. He said he wrote this piece a few years ago when he was mad at the world, but it wasn't addressed to any specific individual.

The best Mommy

Angela Sias

"*SAAN ka,* Mommy?"

Those three words my three-year old daughter asked over the phone had me choking in tears. I was crying like I had never cried before, but that didn't stop her from asking further, "*Bakit hindi mo ako sinama, Mommy?* (Why didn't you take me along , Mommy?)"

More tears as I felt the weight of guilt crashing down on my shoulders. Amidst my sobs, I managed to say, "Mommy will be working here, Baby. That's why you couldn't come along. But you will come visit Mommy in December, and that's only six months away. Count to six on your fingers, Baby, and that is the number of months before we will see each other."

She counted six on her little fingers and asked "*Ganito, Mommy?* (Like this, Mommy?)"

I had been in Singapore barely a day when I called home and talked to my daughter, the bubbly girl who spoke in a high-pitched, animated voice. That night I could feel the sadness in the solemn voice of this toddler who played prank on her aunts, pinched her grandma's butt and ran away to escape a spanking. The same kid who last Mothers' Day woke me up with a wet kiss on my lips and said, "Happy Mothers' Day! I love you, Mommy." This kid who made me scream in frustration as she poured my expensive perfume over the toilet bowl and when she almost flushed my contact lenses down the sink. This little girl who made my chest swell with pride as she walked up the stage to receive her medal for being Best in Language in her class. She who could bring me to the euphoria could also make me unbelievably angry.

About two years ago, I asked for a promotion in the company where I used to work. During the interview, I was asked, "What would you consider as your greatest achievement?" Without batting an eyelash, I replied "Being a mother."

To make the story short, I did not get the job. Maybe the management wanted to hear me say that successfully conducting computer literacy training for more than 100 employees was my greatest achievement. Well, if I said that, I would not have been very truthful to them and to myself. Because above anything else, I considered giving life to another human being to be my greatest achievement, one which could never be surpassed by anything I would accomplish professionally. Having the responsibility of bringing up this mischievous little girl was the best thing that ever happened to me.

When you are older, Baby, and you can read and understand this, I want you to know that:

You are a wish that came true
You are the apple of my eyes
You are the essence of my being
You are the reason for my existence.

I love you more that anything else and that is why I am not with you now, because I am preparing to be a better Mommy, the best Mommy, when we meet in December.

Angela Sias, 25, is a mother and an IT professional.

Filipinos deserve same pay as foreigners

LETTERS

THIS is in reference to the column by Neal H. Cruz last July 30, titled "Crisis at the International School." Cruz likened the Filipino teachers at International School Manila to the greedy dog in Aesop's fable. This only showed that he was inadequately informed. Fairness would have been better served if he had checked with the teachers instead of relying solely on what was provided by the school administration or its agent.

The Supreme Court has affirmed in no uncertain terms the lawfulness of our cause. It ruled in favor of parity, and denied the school's motion for reconsideration. Recently it reiterated the finality of its decision by striking down attempts by International School to shop for another forum. In fact, International School was chastised for bringing a matter the Supreme Court had resolved to the Court of Appeals for review. The Court likewise required the school's officials and their lawyers to explain why they should not be cited for contempt. The Court stressed that its decision included the grant of back wages to the Filipino teachers.

In all our talks with the school administration, we have always manifested reasonableness and a willingness to compromise. In fact, before the Supreme Court rendered its decision on parity, we were open to proposals for the school to implement a three-year phase-in period toward parity and for us to give up claims for back wages. But the school's representatives reneged on their commitments, and shortly thereafter the Court came out with its landmark decision. Incidentally, this decision was praised by former Supreme Court Justice Isagani Cruz. Filipinos too have reason to celebrate this decision for it prohibits unequal treatment of Filipinos in their own country.

After the decision was issued, International School resorted to all sorts of dilatory tactics to delay its execution. Even then we were open to payment of the back wages by installment, but this offer was turned down by the school. It simply refused to acknowledge its liability.

At the same time, it proceeded to build an expensive and immense campus that reportedly cost more than P2 billion. As any accountant would tell you, the school should have made preparations for its contingent liability arising out of the Supreme Court case. Instead, it funneled its resources on a new building inside Fort Bonifacio.

As we have consistently pointed out in our previous pleadings before the Department of Labor and the Supreme Court, International School never had any trouble paying high wages to foreign teachers, but it balks at paying the same rates to Filipino teachers who do the same job. In fact, during all those years, whenever a Filipino teacher resigned or retired, his position was usually given to a foreign hire who was paid higher. We have noticed this trend especially after the Supreme Court ruled in favor of the Filipinos.

**—LUZ CAYABYAB, president,
International School Alliance
of Educators, University
Parkway, Fort Bonifacio,
Global City, Taguig, MM**

Carrageenan firm should stop operations

IT has been reported that the Cebu-based Shemberg Biotech Corp.'s rehabilitation remains a big question mark. Reports said the Asian Development Bank, the Bank of the Philippine Islands and several other local and foreign creditors were opposing the decision of Cebu Regional Trial Court Judge Isaias Diodican to give due course to the carrageenan supplier's rehabilitation. The same reports said the court decision did not require businessman Benson Dakay's company to reorganize its management.

I understand that BPI has filed a petition for certiorari against Diodican with the Court of Appeals, a move that puts in doubt the firm's rehabilitation plan. I am happy to note that the bank made the move to stress the point that Shemberg's efforts are useless and that the appellate court should reverse the judge's earlier ruling allowing Dakay's company to undertake it.

If it is true that Colgate-Palmolive cancelled Shemberg's $10-million supply contract for toothpaste-grade carrageenan a year ago, then we can conclude that the Shemberg is losing heavily. The immediate closure of its facilities is the best option.

**—SHEILA OCAMPO, Plainville
Subd., Talisay City, Cebu**

What's human?

PINOY KASI

Michael L. Tan

A FEW years back as we were making one of those long car trips, my niece suddenly asked, "Uncle Mike, how long have people been on earth?"

Kids ask the simplest questions, but that the answers to such simple questions can be terribly complex. Are we referring to "humans" as Homo sapiens or "wise humans" as we've so presumptuously named ourselves? In that case we go back about a hundred thousand years, which was the answer I gave my niece.

She responded with an awed "Wow!" which was understandable since she was all of seven years old then. But a hundred thousand years in geological time is very recent. If we want to include other human-like species, we'd have to go further back in time. For example, if we include the Neanderthals, who many anthropologists classify as Homo sapiens but as a different subspecies, then we can say humans have been around about 250,000 years.

Other anthropologists would stretch the time line to include other Homo species: Homo erectus ("Peking Man" and "Java Man"), Homo ergaster, all the way back to Homo habilis—"habilis" meaning "handyman," a name given because they found rather complicated stone tools together with the fossils. If Homo habilis were indeed human then we've been around for about 2.5 million years.

Still other anthropologists consider hominins as humans or at least "early humans." The term refers to many of our distant cousins who bear features of both apes and humans. These are the ones with names like Paranthropus, Australopithecus, Kenyanthropus, Ardipithecus and Orrorin, with new fossils being found every few months now.

Just last month the science journal Nature published a report on the oldest fossil hominin yet to be found: Salenthropus tchadensis. The fossil was found in Chad, Central Africa, and is believed to be about seven million years old. Given the nickname "Toumai" (hope of life), Salenthropus tchadensis had several physical traits that come close to that of Homo sapiens: a fairly flat face and small teeth. There is speculation Toumai was bipedal, walking on two legs.

But just what makes us human? Is it simply having certain physical traits like a flat face, or a complex brain? Definitely not. The biologist Colin Tudge once wrote that if some deep-sea fish mutated to develop a brain like Jane Austen's, that brain would have no value. What we consider to be a distinctly human physical feature is "human" only when taken together with other features, taken in the context of the way it contributes to our survival on the planet.

Let's use bipedalism as a case study. Dinosaurs were bipedal, but that bipedalism was awkward, used mainly for locomotion. Human bipedalism is different, a still imperfect but fine-tuned movement that involves not just our legs and feet but also our brain and our spinal cord.

Anthropologists speculate that we developed bipedalism as our curious hominin ancestors, then mainly living in trees, began to climb down more frequently to explore the terrestrial environment. There was a survival advantage for those who could stand and walk on two feet because they could explore a larger area for food, even as they watched out for predators. Bipedalism also freed our hands, which is believed to have led to a whole chain of other developments: gestures for communication and the making of tools, for example.

All these developments may have speeded up the development of our brains, which allowed us to eventually "take over" biological evolution. Today, we look pretty much the same as Homo sapiens of a hundred thousand years ago but our lives are drastically different, especially in the way we have overcome many of our biological limitations. A computer search engine, for example, runs through thousands of files in several seconds to pick out articles about a particular topic, a task which would take several days, even weeks, if we relied on our brain alone.

Our speculation about our origins moves in many directions. Quite a number of my graduate students are from the religious, including nuns, priests, pastors, seminarians, ex-seminarians. I also have students from different countries, which means a great diversity in their faiths. All that makes for rather lively discussions in our physical anthropology classes. Did "Toumai" have a human soul? If there is in fact reincarnation, as Buddhists and Hindus believe, is it possible that some of us have "recycled" souls from our Neanderthal cousins, or from Toumai?

You can never prove or disprove anything with such metaphysical discussions but there are many philosophical issues that relate to human evolution. As we discover more about the intelligence of non-humans—chimps learning to communicate using sign language for example—we may have to rethink our definitions of what's human.

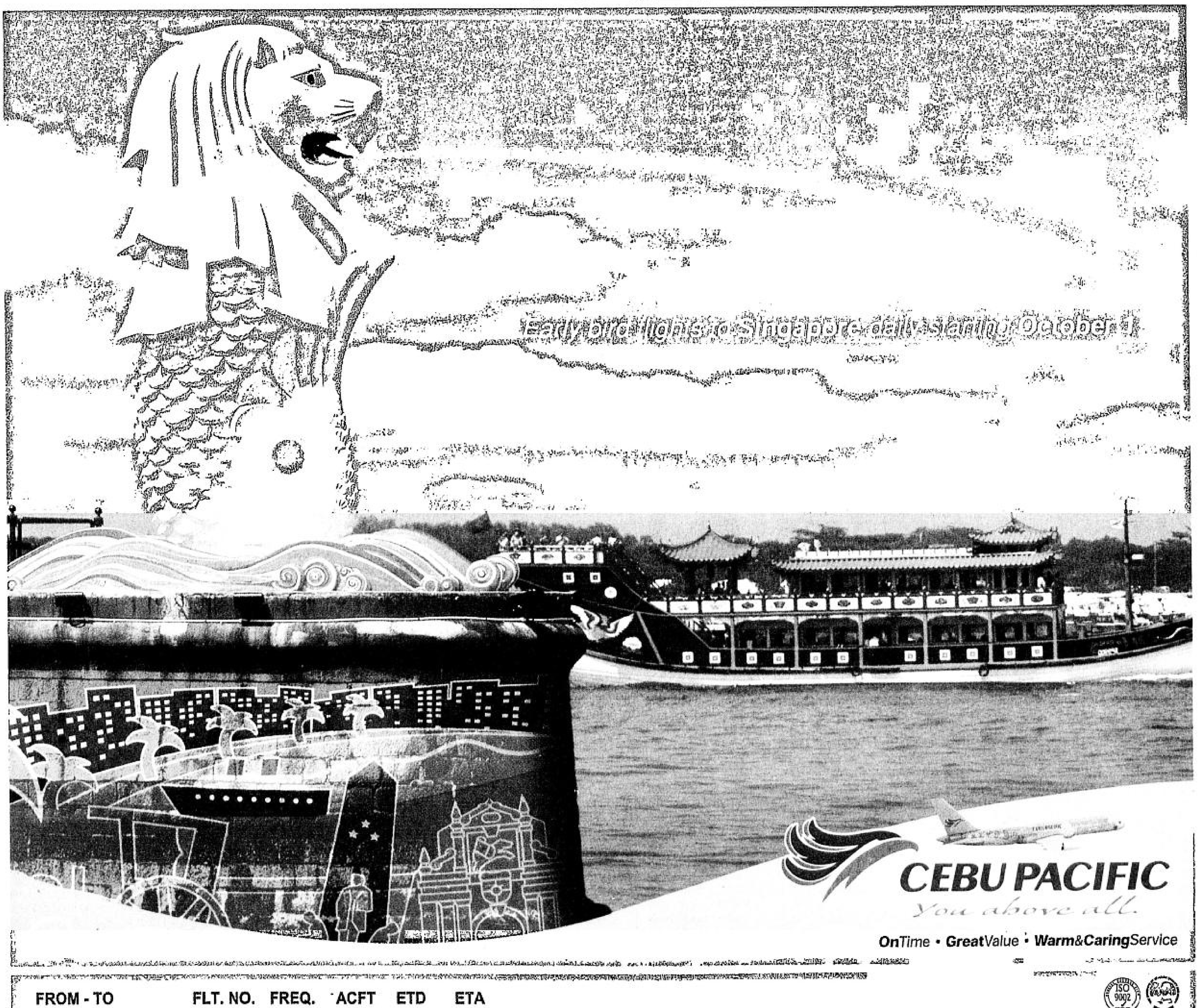
Developments in molecular biology also challenge our thinking about what's human. Scientists have found that chimpanzees and humans share 98 percent of our genes. It seems chimpanzees are even more closely related to us than to gorillas. There are very real social and ethical implications coming out of these studies: should human rights apply to chimps, for example?

So, how long have we been on earth? It really shouldn't matter much when we think of the antiquity of life on the planet, which is believed to date back about 3.8 billion years. If we compress all those years into one year, then human ancestors like "Toumai" have been around only about a day, while Homo sapiens came around only about 15 minutes ago. We're really new kids on the block.

What makes us human? I think one important feature is our ability to wonder about our origins, to search for our roots. As we do that, looking at what we've done since we appeared on earth, we feel both pride and shame with what we've done to fellow humans, and to the planet.

* * *

Comments to miguel@pinoykasi.net



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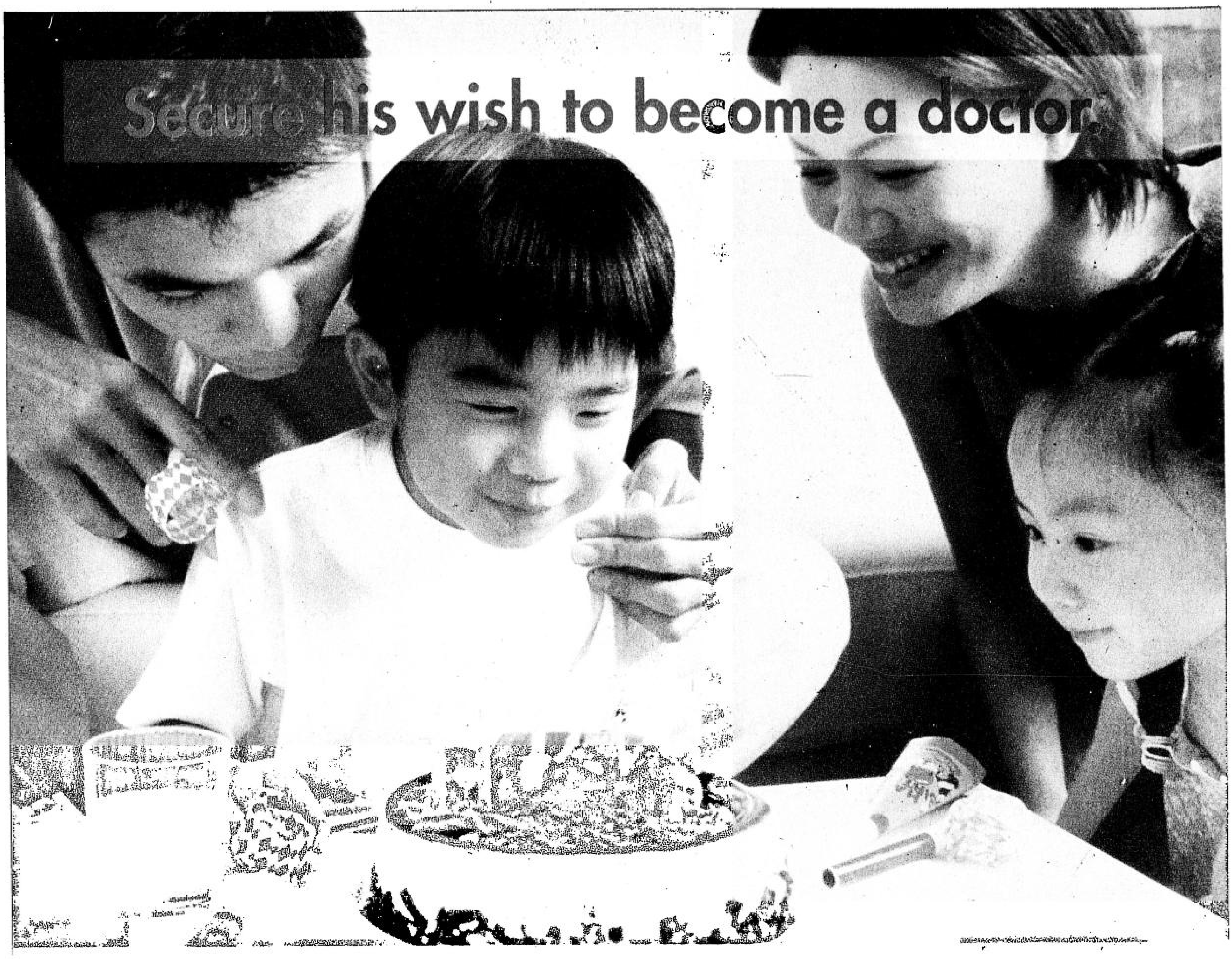
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3	3.00%	₱ 2,500.00	₱ 30,000.00
4	3.25%	₱ 2,708.33	₱ 32,500.00
5	3.50%	₱ 2,916.67	₱ 35,000.00
6	3.75%	₱ 3,125.00	₱ 37,500.00
7	4.00%	₱ 3,333.33	₱ 40,000.00
8	4.25%	₱ 3,541.67	₱ 42,500.00
9	4.50%	₱ 3,750.00	₱ 45,000.00
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The WORLD

Editor **Luverne B. Gueco**

China rejects Taiwan independence vote

BEIJING/TAIPEI—An infuriated China said on Monday Taiwan President Chen Shui-bian's backing of a referendum on formal independence would cause severe damage to cross-strait relations and lead the island to disaster.

"We seriously warn Taiwan splittist forces not to wrongly judge the situation, to immediately stop the horse at the edge of the precipice and to stop all splittist activities," a top spokesperson told a news conference.

Chen, in his strongest comments on the issue since taking office in 2000, said on Saturday that holding a referendum was a "basic human right" and there was basically "one country on each side" of the Taiwan Strait.

In Taipei, Taiwan's top policymaker on China sought to play down Chen's remarks, saying they did not signal a change of policy and were aimed at safeguarding the current position.

"Do not over-interpret (Chen's comments)," said Tsai Ing-wen, chair of the Cabinet's Mainland Affairs Council.

"We do not want the independence and sovereignty we enjoy now to be destroyed or changed," she told a news conference hours before leaving for the United States with Premier Yu Shyi-kun.

She was making the journey to explain to the Americans that there had been no change in the island's policy.

In Beijing, Li Weiyi, spokesperson for the Taiwan Affairs Office, said Chen's advocacy of independence would damage "Taiwan's economy, hurt the personal interests of Taiwan compatriots and lead Taiwan to disaster."

"Opposing Taiwan independence and splittism, realising national reunification is our resolute and immutable position and we will absolutely not allow anyone, in any way, to split Taiwan from China," Li said.

The statement was the first official response from China, whose leaders have regarded the island as a rebel province since 1949 and have sworn to attack Taiwan if it declares independence.

That threat was repeated only last week as China, angered by what it regards as "incremental" steps toward independence by Taiwan's leaders, celebrated the 75th anniversary of the People's Liberation Army.

Military analysts say, however, Beijing is not yet in a position to carry out its threat because the PLA still lacks the air and sea power to overwhelm an island heavily armed with superior weaponry. *Reuters*

Bush defends review of Clinton plan vs al-Qaida

WASHINGTON—The administration of President George W. Bush said Sunday it moved as swiftly as possible to develop a plan on how to eliminate al-Qaida—a process that took eight months and wasn't complete until one week before the Sept. 11 attacks.

The administration of Bill Clinton had handed off to the incoming Bush team detailed assessments of the threat, and offered ideas on how to counter al-Qaida.

But Bush officials took issue Sunday with a report in the Aug. 12 issue of Time magazine that said the current administration's review of its predecessor's briefings became bogged down in bureaucracy.

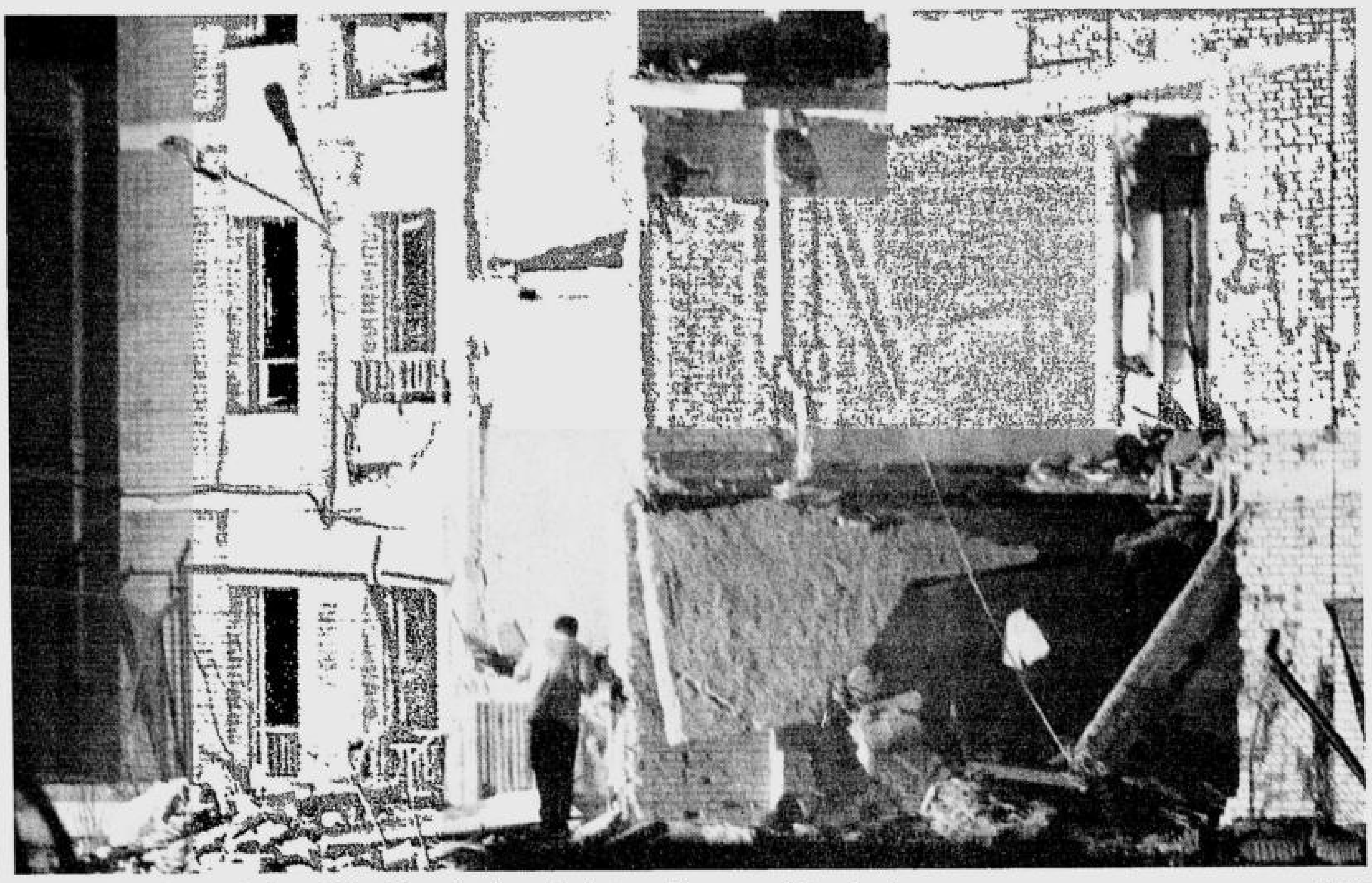
The current White House denied receiving any firm plans for dealing with al-Qaida.

"The Clinton administration did not present an aggressive new plan to topple al-Qaida during the transition," said White House spokesperson Sean McCormack.

"We were briefed on the al-Qaida threat and what the Clinton administration was doing about it. These efforts against al-Qaida were continued in the Bush administration."

According to Time, Clinton's anti-terror czar, Richard Clarke, offered detailed proposals: arresting al-Qaida personnel, choking off the group's financing, aiding nations fighting the organization and beefing up covert action in Afghanistan to deny al-Qaida sanctuary.

Clarke, who stayed on in the Bush administration, also called for a substantial increase in support for the Northern Alliance in Afghanistan and for planning of air strikes on Afghan terror camps. *AP*



A RESCUE worker combs the rubble of the police barracks destroyed by a powerful car bomb. REUTERS

Car bomb kills 2 in southeastern Spain

MADRID—A car bomb killed two people, including a 6-year-old girl, near a crowded bus stop and the Civil Guard barracks Sunday in the southeastern resort town of Santa Pola on Sunday, officials said.

Francisco Camps, the representative of the interior ministry, said a 50-year-old man and a 6-year-old girl were killed in the blast. Police sources, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the car bomb exploded shortly after 8:30 p.m.

Judge Gordiano Casas, who is in charge of the investigation, confirmed that the girl killed was the daughter of a Civil Guard who was playing in her bedroom when the blast caused furniture to fall on her. The other fatality was a man waiting at the bus stop who died instantly, Casas added.

Other twenty-five people were reported injured with cuts and burns but only two remained hospitalized in serious condition, Camps added.

Most of the victims were people waiting for the bus after spending the day at the beach, news reports said.

Television footage showed heavy damage at the Civil Guard barracks. The front of the building had been cleanly blown up and fragments were strewn all over the street. Tenants' belongings such as beds and refrigerators could be seen from outside.

Electricity and telephone networks in many areas of Santa Pola also were affected by the blast, emergency workers said.

Police immediately cordoned off surrounding streets for fear there was another car bomb in the area.

Santa Pola, located on Spain's southeastern coast some 400 km from Madrid, is packed with tourists in August.

Although the cause of the blast had not yet been confirmed, the Basque separatist group ETA has frequently used car bombs as part of its 32-year-old campaign for Basque independence in which some 800 people have been killed.

ETA's last fatal attack came on March 21, when a Socialist politician was shot dead in a bar in the Basque town of Orig.

"ETA has shown one more than time that it is the enemy of this country," said Rodolfo Ares, a Socialist politician of the northern Basque region after hearing the news. *AP*

Floods swamp Bangladesh capital; 4 more kids die

DHAKA, Bangladesh—Zakir Hossain has propped up his wooden bed on piled bricks to keep it above flood waters. His wife stands in knee-high water, cooking food in a mud oven placed on the bed. The family's 10-year-old daughter Razia wades through the muddy waters to go to school.

"The water is rising and we will have to leave our house soon," said Hossain, a rickshaw driver, standing in flood waters that have engulfed his two-room house in Dhaka's northern Rampura district on Sunday.

Dozens of Hossain's neighbors have already fled, finding shelter with relatives or friends. Parts of the district—one of the city's low-lying areas—now lie under chest-high waters.

Flood waters have inundated nearly a fourth of the capital, Dhaka, with commuters using boats instead of cars and buses to navigate the flooded streets. During one of the country's worst floods in 1988, half the city, home to 10 million people, was under water.

Dhaka is surrounded by rivers, such as the Buriganga, Turag and Shitalakya, which have been steadily rising as flood waters race down from receding rivers in the north.

In the country's north, four children drowned Sunday, bringing the death toll from the monsoon floods to 137 in Bangladesh, relief officials said.

Nearly half the country has been flooded, displacing or stranding 6 million people, the government's relief ministry said Sunday. *AP*

WORLDBRIEFS

No inspectors, no visit

CAIRO—The United Nations chief arms inspector said he would not visit Iraq for technical talks until Baghdad approves the return of weapons inspectors, while a US senator said Sunday that America probably would go to war with Iraq. UN chief inspector Hans Blix's refusal to visit Iraq, reported Sunday in the London-based pan-Arab Al-Hayat, comes as fears mount of an American strike on Iraq aimed at toppling President Saddam Hussein. Blix's comments follow Thursday's invitation by Iraqi Foreign Minister Naji Sabri to the UN official to continue technical talks in Iraq "at the earliest agreed upon time." The invitation, which came in a letter delivered to the United Nations, marked the first indication that Iraq might allow UN inspectors to return to the country since they left in December 1998 ahead of US airstrikes. *AP*

Niger uprising quelled

NIAMEY, Niger—Presidential guards put down a military uprising in Niger's capital Monday, Prime Minister Hama Amadou said, bringing Niamey under government control after hours of early-morning heavy weapons fire was heard in the city. Members of three Army garrisons had marched, shooting, on the home of President Tandja Mamadou, the prime minister told radio stations in the Sahara Desert nation. Weapons-fire sounded for more than two hours early Monday, ending before dawn. There was no immediate word on casualties in the capital. Soldiers in the remote eastern parts of the country revolted six days ago, demanding the government pay months of unpaid salaries. *AP*

Somare elected

PORT MORESBY, Papua New Guinea—With armed riot police surrounding Parliament, lawmakers Monday elected Michael Somare, the founding father of modern Papua New Guinea, as the impoverished South Pacific nation's new prime minister. His appointment followed a chaotic election marred by vote-rigging and at least 30 deaths. Fears of continued civil unrest led police to send armed officers to Parliament in the capital, Port Moresby, ahead of Monday's vote. It is the third time Somare, a former journalist, has held the job since he led the country to independence 27 years ago. Somare's election followed a campaign in which he called the country's recent leaders "bandits and con men" and urged voters to elect somebody with credibility. *AP*

No retaliation, please

BELFAST, Northern Ireland—Mourners burying the latest victim of Northern Ireland's conflict appealed Sunday for Protestant extremists not to retaliate against Catholics in revenge. Several hundred people crowded into a rural Presbyterian church outside Londonderry, Northern Ireland's second-largest city, for the funeral of David Caldwell. The 51-year-old was killed Thursday when a booby-trap bomb attributed to Irish Republican Army dissidents blew up in his face as he worked on renovations at an unoccupied, unguarded British army facility. Protestant extremists immediately vowed to kill a Catholic in retaliation, although no attack has happened. *AP*

Colombia tries to win peace through war

BOGOTA, Colombia—Colombia's next president, a foreign-educated bureaucrat with wire-rimmed glasses and conservative suits, seems an odd figure to lead the country into a broader war with leftist rebels.

But after 38 years of increasingly bloody civil war, Colombians appear eager to follow their new leader into the intensified battle he has promised to wage against the country's rebels.

Alvaro Uribe, who takes office Wednesday, speaks equally enthusiastically of education and pension reform. But it's his message of war that resonates here — his conviction that with determination and a strengthened military this diminutive 50-year-old Colombian can hammer the rebels into making peace on his terms.

Some 3,500 people die every year in the war. Hundreds of others are kidnapped by the rebels. Uribe's own father was killed in a kidnapping attempt in 1983 at the family ranch.

He insists his crusade isn't personal, and not directed only at the left-wing rebels but the right-wing paramilitaries, as well as the drug traffickers that finance both.

But some doubt his resolve when it comes to the illegal paramilitaries.

Arturo Carrillo, a law professor at Columbia University in New York and a critic of Uribe, worries about the new president's past as governor of Antioquia state, during a period when the paramilitaries consolidated their power. Carrillo thinks that even if Uribe does indeed take on all the illegal groups, human rights will suffer.

"The human rights situation in Colombia has always been tied to the conflict," he said in a telephone interview. "The more conflict, the more human rights violations, and all sides are pretty much vowed to escalate the conflict now."

But many Colombians say they're ready to accept the risks of escalation.

"We've tried negotiating with the rebels but nothing happened," said Juan Manuel Rios, a taxi driver. "It's time for war. Uribe is our last hope to save Colombia."

In the May election, his slogan was "mano firme, corazon grande" — firm hand, big heart. He promised "a firm hand against the violence, the dirty politics and the corruption (and) a big heart to do away with misery and build social justice." It put him 20 percentage points ahead of his nearest contender, despite running as an independent against Colombia's party machines.

Uribe has laid out ambitious plans to increase the size of the US-backed military, reform congress, clean up official corruption and streamline the national bureaucracy.

He also has plans for schools and roads, better health care and loans to small businesses. He even plans to train farmers now growing drug crops to replant the jungle and become park rangers. *AP*

US-educated trader is Bolivia president

LA PAZ, Bolivia—Bolivia's Congress ended a presidential tie on Sunday, picking US-educated millionaire Gonzalo Sanchez de Lozada to lead the South American nation as it confronts economic malaise and growing social unrest.

Sanchez de Lozada, a centrist mining executive who was president from 1993 to 1997, won a congressional vote by a 84-43 margin over Evo Morales, a radical Indian leader of Bolivia's coca growers.

The men were the top two vote-getters in a national election in June. Neither won an outright majority, forcing a vote in Congress. Two congressman left their votes blank Sunday, while 26 voted for Manfred Reyes Villa, who came in a close third place in June. Two other legislators were absent.

Congress convened Saturday and debated through the night for more than 24 hours. All 155 members present gave a speech, with some wearing multicolored Indian clothing and speaking in indigenous languages. Others chewed coca leaf, the base material of cocaine but also an important part of centuries-old Indian culture in the Andes.

Sanchez de Lozada assured his victory in the legislative vote more than a week ago by securing an alliance with his rival, leftist former President Jaime Paz Zamora.

He will govern South America's poorest country while dealing with a combative opposition. Bolivia is suffering not only an economic crisis, but also rising crime and social unrest.

After the vote, Sanchez de Lozada called for the country's fractious political parties to work together. "We can't be fighting each other and misunderstanding each other because the country is in crisis," he told reporters in his leafy front yard.

The new government will also work to restore Bolivians' faith "that we'll to be able to turn around the crisis and move forward with public works with jobs and the fight against corruption and social exclusion," he said.

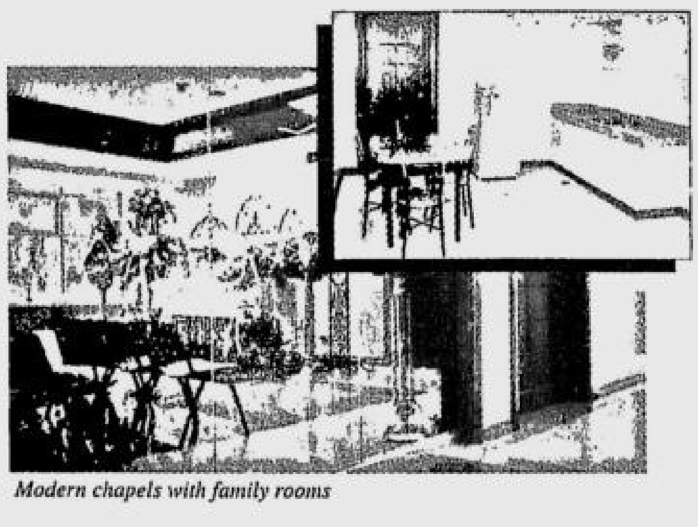
Known by the nickname "Goni," Sanchez de Lozada spent most of his youth in the United States and still speaks Spanish with an American accent that is often the brunt of jokes among Bolivians. He grew up in Washington, where his father was a diplomat, and later studied philosophy and English literature at the University of Chicago.

Sanchez de Lozada will face an opposition galvanized by the blunt-talking Morales, whose Movement to Socialism party has given Bolivia's downtrodden Indian majority an unprecedented political voice. *AP*

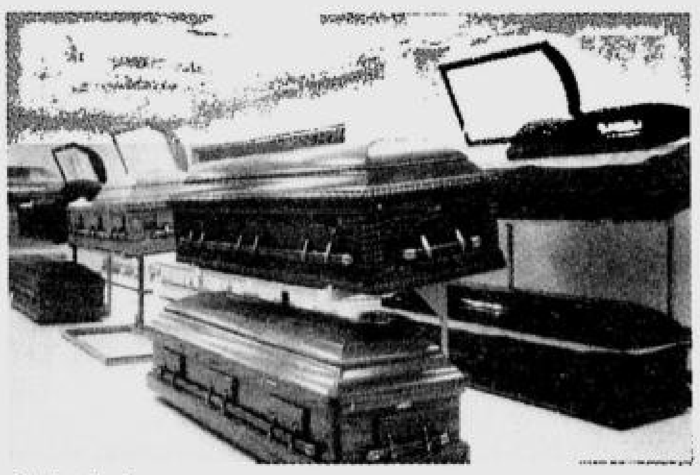
La Funeraria Paz Sucat Inaugurated

Today, on the Feast of the Transfiguration, La Funeraria Paz opens its 3-storey mortuary at the Manila Memorial Park in Sucat (now Dr. A. Santos Avenue), Parañaque. From the first and oldest chapel it built at the corner of Calle Paz (now C.M. Recto) to the newest one in Sucat, La Funeraria Paz continues to provide excellent and dignified memorial services.

Spacious lobby



Modern chapels with family rooms



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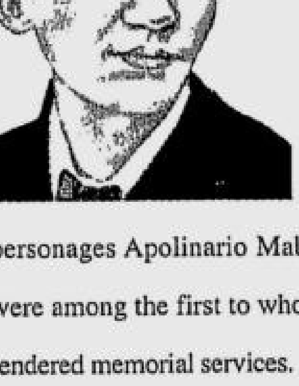
Fleet of hearses



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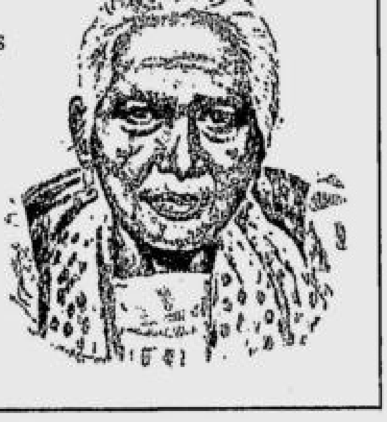

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WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Western sections of Northern and Central Luzon, Southern Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao will experience cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms.

SOURCE: PAGASA

Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy	**Hi 32°**	Lo 25°
Baguio	Cloudy with Rains	**Hi 22°**	Lo 16°
Tuguegarao	Partly Cloudy	**Hi 32°**	Lo 25°
Laoag	Cloudy with Rains	**Hi 31°**	Lo 26°
Clark Zone	Cloudy with Rains	**Hi 31°**	Lo 24°
Tagaytay	Cloudy with Rains	**Hi 31°**	Lo 23°
Legazpi	Cloudy with Rains	**Hi 32°**	Lo 25°
Calapan	Cloudy with Rains	**Hi 31°**	Lo 24°
Iloilo/Bacolod	Cloudy with Rains	**Hi 31°**	Lo 25°
Roxas	Cloudy with Rains	**Hi 32°**	Lo 25°
Cebu	Cloudy with Rains	**Hi 32°**	Lo 24°
Tacloban	Cloudy with Rains	**Hi 33°**	Lo 25°
Gen. Santos	Cloudy with Rains	**Hi 31°**	Lo 24°
Zamboanga	Cloudy with Rains	**Hi 32°**	Lo 25°
Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with Rains	**Hi 32°**	Lo 22°
Davao	Cloudy with Rains	**Hi 32°**	Lo 24°

Compiled by: Ray Leyesa, PDI Research/08/06/02

ROUNDUP

Blamed for floods

LABRADOR, Pangasinan—Officials here blamed the National Power Corp. for the waist-deep floodwater that submerged this town after several hours of heavy rains last week. Mayor Ernesto Acain said it was the first time in years that a flash flood hit the town, which hosts two major substations and three transmission lines of Napocor. Acain said Napocor cut down trees in 300 hectares of forests where transmission lines passed through, worsening the denudation of the town's forest area.

Yolanda Fuertes, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

Killed by bus

OLONGAPO CITY—A woman was killed after she was hit by a Dinalupihan-bound passenger jeepney while crossing the highway in Old Cabalan here on Thursday. Police said Mary Jane Cadiz, 50, died while undergoing treatment at the James L. Gordon Memorial Hospital. The jeepney driver, Dennis Morales, was detained and charged with homicide through reckless imprudence.

Allan Macatuno, PDI Central Luzon Desk

Siblings stabbed dead

STO. DOMINGO, Ilocos Sur—Two siblings were stabbed and killed by a man believed to be high on drugs on Tuesday. Police said Mark Anthony Torrano, 21, and his sister Nina Katrina, 15, died of 14 to 18 stab wounds. Reports said the man entered the house of the victims at Barangay Pussuac here and stabbed them. The suspect fled when the victims' 11-year-old brother cried for help. Their parents are working abroad.

Leoncio Balbin Jr., PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

New DOST Usec

LEGAZPI CITY—A Bicolana, who has served as regional director of the Department of Science and Technology in Bicol for three years, was recently appointed by President Macapagal-Arroyo as the new science and technology undersecretary for special concerns. Dr. Eriberta Nepomuceno, a native of Oas, Albay, studied biosensors, bioelectronics and biochemistry in Japan. She has developed a science and technology program based on available resources in Bicol. She said Bicol will be her priority because of poverty there.

Michael Jaucian, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Wanted nabbed

LUCENA CITY—After eight years of hiding in Manila, Ludicio Balbas, 32, alias 'Bisay,' the most wanted criminal in the city, was finally captured Wednesday in Barangay Dalahican when he returned to the scene of the crime. Balbas was convicted of killing Kapal Mendoza who also lived in the same village. Arresting officer SPO4 Johnny Escalderon said they waited for Balbas for two days after getting information that the suspect will visit old friends in the area.

Delfin Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

New battalion head

JUBAN, Sorsogon—Lt. Col. Romeo Cabatic took over the command of the 2nd Infantry Battalion, 2nd Infantry Division of the Philippine Army from Lt. Col. Manuel Garin during a turnover ceremony here on Thursday. Maj. Gen. Dante Bonifacio, 2nd Infantry assistant division commander, urged Cabatic to confront threats posed by the Communist Party of the Philippines-New People's Army as he cited the burning of communications and construction equipment and buses allegedly by the NPA.

Emir Gamis, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Drug pusher arrested

SORSOGON CITY—Sorsogon City police arrested on Tuesday a suspected drug pusher in a buy-bust operation in Barangay Almendras here. Police recovered from suspect Remart Dispuig eight plastic sachets containing suspected shabu and three P100 bills as marked money. Dispuig was brought to police for custody.

Emir Gamis, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Suspected NPA killed

LIGAO CITY—A suspected New People's Army member was killed while three others were captured during a three-minute gunfight with soldiers of the Army's 22nd Infantry Battalion at Barangay Maonon on Tuesday. The slain suspect was identified as Jerome Pental, 18, and the three captives as Jubby Pental, 20, Villamor Bonde, 42, and Edgardo Naparam, 29, all said to be residents of the village. Recovered from the scene were a .38-cal. revolver with two bullets and three empty cartridges, personal belongings and communist documents, according to the soldiers.

Michael Jaucian, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Miners warned cyanide fumes still fill Diwalwal tunnels

DAVAO CITY—Mt. Diwata Barangay Captain Franco Tito, one of the leaders of small-scale miners in Mt. Diwata in Compostela Valley, yesterday said miners have been told to stay away from gold tunnels after it was found that these were still filled with poisonous fumes.

Tito said a team of miners retrieving those who were still trapped inside the tunnels of Blubscor and Australia were told to suspend rescue operations until after the smoke had been cleared.

"We ordered them to stop all operations until the smoke has gone.

The poisonous smoke which started spreading on July 25 have affected up to 40 miners, of whom one had died," he said.

It allegedly started from the Victory tunnel operated by the Joel Brillantes Management Mining Corp. (JBBMC), which was owned by Monkayo town Mayor Joel Brillantes.

JBBMC and the small-scale miners were locked in a long-standing dispute over mining territories.

But the Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB) of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) proposed a total shutdown of all mining operations until disputes in the gold-rush area have been settled.

Juanito Juntilla Jr., one of the two investigators of MGB, also said the perpetrators of the July 25 poison smoke, which came from stacks of tires laced with cyanide, should be arrested and their firearms and toxic chemicals confiscated.

In a recommendation to MGB regional director Ma. Luisa Jacinto, Juntilla said police should be called in to settle the issue.

"The conflict should be treated as a peace and order problem inasmuch as it involves a direct attack on the safety of the miners' lives," Juntilla said in a memorandum Aug. 1.

Juntilla said driving out miners from rival firms have been the practice of some companies on Mt. Diwalwal.

He said it started with the mining conflict between Victory and Australia in September 2000.

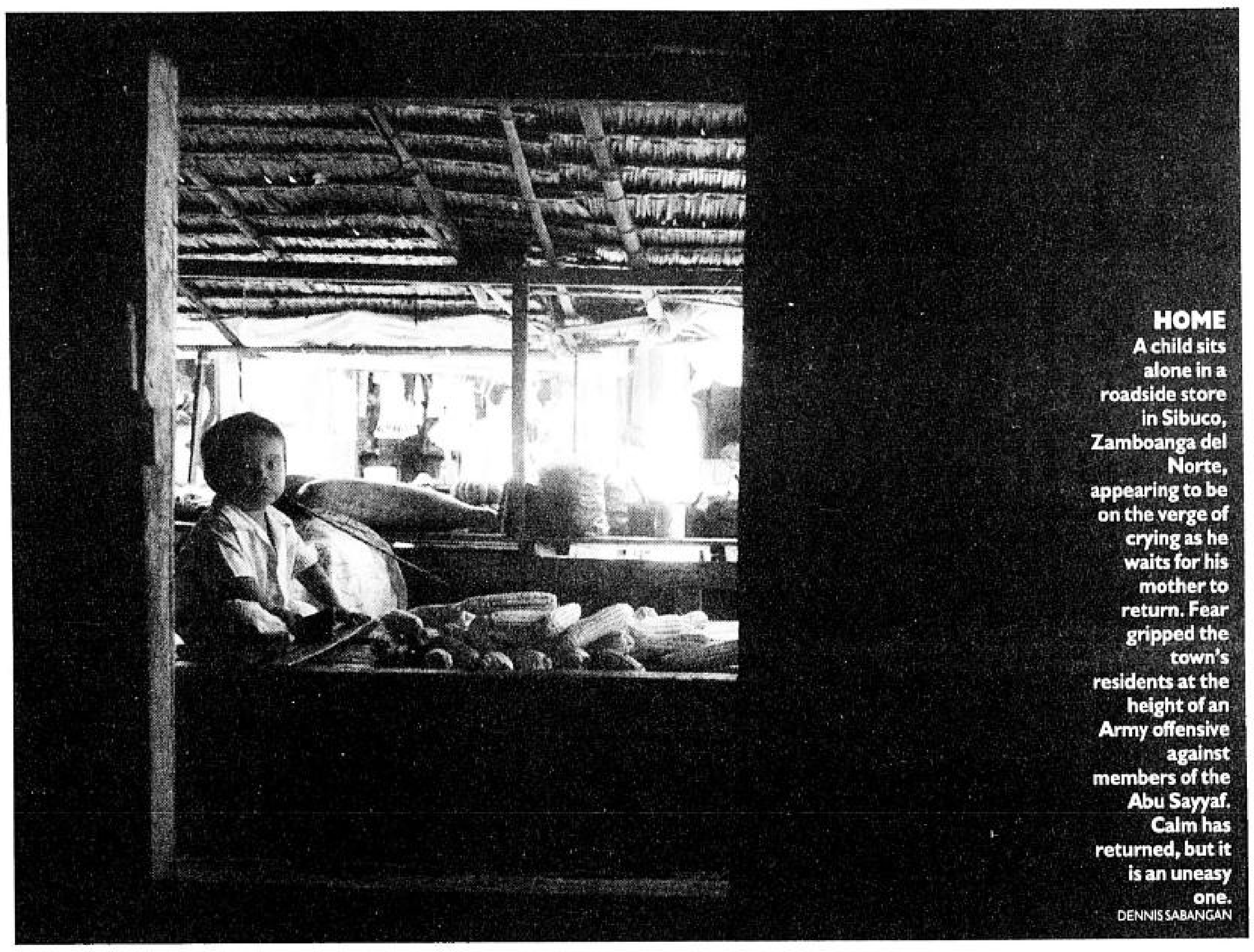
Shortly after that, poison smoke filled Australia's tunnel, affecting at least seven workers.

"Accordingly, the same strategy as that of the September 2000 incident was used in driving out miners that occupied the upper level," Juntilla said in his report.

Compostela Valley Gov. Jose Caballero called on the National Bureau of Investigation to conduct an autopsy on Roberto Zamora, who died in the July 25 incident.

He said the autopsy could be useful in the charges to be filed against the perpetrators of the poison smoke.

But Caballero continued to refuse blaming JBBMC firm saying more pieces of evidence have yet to be gathered. *Ayan Mellejor and Anthony Allada, PDI Mindanao Bureau*



HOME A child sits alone in a roadside store in Sibuco, Zamboanga del Norte, appearing to be on the verge of crying as he waits for his mother to return. Fear gripped the town's residents at the height of an Army offensive against members of the Abu Sayyaf. Calm has returned, but it is an uneasy one.
DENNIS SABANGAN

Catanduanes folk slam frequent brownouts

LEGAZPI CITY—Multi-sectoral groups launched the biggest protest ever in Catanduanes province yesterday against the First Catanduanes Electric Cooperative (Ficelco) and the National Power Corp.

More than 1,000 protesters, composed mostly of local businessmen, participated in the protest action to condemn the continuous electric power interruptions they had been suffering recently.

The activity started with a mobile noise barrage at about 3 p.m., followed by a grand rally at the Freedom Park in the capital town of Virac.

Sammy Besa, organizer of the protest rally, said they had been sick and tired of brownouts, which usually last up to ten hours everyday.

"As a result, the province of Catanduanes already looks like a beerhouse, having off-and-on lights. And it has caused horrible damage to our appliances," said Besa in an earlier interview with a local radio station in Legazpi City.

During the rally, the protesters made three demands: First, for the local government to help assure a steady supply of electricity; second, a stop to the unfair collection of purchased power adjustment rates, and third, for the provincial and cooperative authorities to decide whether the Ficelco should be retained as a cooperative or turned into a corporation.

Besa said their protests were not politically motivated. *Ronnie Lorejo, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

Pinatubo lake breaches, triggers mild lahar flow

BOTOLAN, Zambales—Rainwater that accumulated at the crater-lake of Mt. Pinatubo breached the lake's artificial canal and triggered lahar flows since July 10 as Aetas here had reported, the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology confirmed yesterday.

Dr. Raymundo Punongbayan, Phivolcs director, said the lake breakout widened the meter-wide canal to 3.7 meters, releasing 160 million cubic meters of water that loosened lahar along the Bucao-Balin-Baquero river.

He said hard rock formations along the Maraunot Trench slowed down the flow of water, preventing deadly lahar rampages in Botolan villages.

At least 10 huts were washed out but Aeta villagers had already evacuated by then. They left their huts after noticing unusual lahar flows and sulfur smell from Bucao River, he said.

"The Aetas were right after all," Punongbayan said.

Punongbayan's information was based on a monitoring report by a Phivolcs team that observed the crater-lake from July 31 to Aug. 3.

He said carving the canal in September last year helped prevent a catastrophic breaching. The canal, which is 3-km wide, held more than 200 million cubic meters of water before the rainy season last year.

"It has served its function," he said. Almost 40,000 residents of Botolan, west of the volcano, were evacuated last year to keep them out of harm when the Phivolcs and the Department of Public Works and Highways opened the canal.

Punongbayan said P1 million was saved on the cost of geotechnical studies showing that the flows scoured loose volcanic deposits, widened the canal and exposed the rock formations.

"Now we know that those rocks are stalling the water," he said. *Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

Red Cross renews bloodletting in fight vs dengue

By Ma. Diosa Labiste
PDI Visayas Bureau

ILOILO CITY—The number of dengue cases has declined but the Philippine National Red Cross (PNRC) office here refuses to be caught off guard.

Ten bloodletting activities have been scheduled since July 16 to boost the stock of blood and raise awareness on the importance of donating blood.

Dr. Julie Jimeno, PNRC blood center physician in-charge, said she enlisted the help of local government units, civic groups and news organizations in bloodletting activities last month.

The PNRC had been receiving more requests for blood products since June when cases of dengue were on the rise.

Jimeno said that 80 percent of their blood supply was consumed in June and they asked their Manila office to send 200 units of fresh frozen plasma here.

Fresh frozen plasma and platelet concentrates are transfused to dengue patients. The blood replaces blood lost during hemorrhage and improve the platelet count of dengue patients.

Currently, there are 142 units of blood products at the PNRC's blood center on Bonifacio Drive here.

Jimeno said patients in government hospitals are asked to pay P400 while those in private hospitals, P700.

Recipients are advised to bring along donors but if they cannot because of emergency cases, they have to send a donor to the PNRC a few days later.

Two persons died and 1,041 other fell ill of dengue in Western Visayas from January to July 31 this year, said Dr. Glen Alonsabe, epidemiologist of the Department of Health regional office.

In the first week of July, 187 cases were reported; 114 in the second week; 80 in the third week and 35 in the fourth week.

Bohol execs on 10 percent kickbacks: 'Not us'

By Chito A. Fuentes
PDI Visayas Bureau

TAGBILARAN CITY—Two local officials flatly denied allegations of corruption by politicians who reportedly demand 10 percent commissions for government projects.

Bohol Gov. Erico Aumentado and Rep. Eladio Jala of the third district said they had never asked commissions from any contractor.

"I won't speak for the others, but I stand on my record. If any contractor will say that I demanded even one centavo, one percent, I'm ready to resign if they can prove that," Aumentado dared in Cebuano.

Jala dared Petronilo Sarigumba, Bohol Builders and Contractors Association president, to name the politicians who demanded commissions from private contractors for government projects.

"The accusation was sweeping," he told the INQUIRER in a telephone interview. "If there are (pieces of) evidence on the alleged corruption, (the contractors) should file formal charges before the Ombudsman."

Jala, a lawyer, volunteered to help in preparing the affidavits of witnesses.

Bohol Rep. Edgar Chatto of the first district said Sarigumba deserved to be commended for revealing the corrupt practices.

"I hope that this will be the start of a crusade to cleanse the system of corruption, which many people believe have become very widespread," he said.

Sarigumba earlier said 99 percent of Boholano politicians had demanded 10 percent commissions for projects.

He, however, declined to identify these politicians, saying their identities were "immaterial."

Aumentado said in an interview over radio station dyTR that majority of the contractors had signed a manifesto prior to the 1998 elections, supporting him because of his "unblemished record."

"The only thing we relied upon was our integrity, our credibility," he said.

The governor said not one contractor could accuse him of corruption.

Jala said the allegation placed Boholano officials in a bad light.

Chatto said he hoped the accusations would start of cleansing process.

Police uncover kidnap suspects' plan to escape

By Gia Damaso-Dumo
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

SAN FERNANDO CITY—The six Chinese accused in the kidnapping last year of Jackie Rowena Tiu were transferred to a more secure jail last week after the police confirmed that they were planning to escape from the La Union provincial jail here.

Judge Antonio Carbonell of the regional trial court ordered the transfer of the inmates to the custody of the Bauang District jail upon the request of Gov. Victor Ortega. The jail is under the supervision of the Bureau of Jail Management and Penology.

The PNP and the BJMP were also ordered to tighten security for the inmates in jail and when they are escorted to and from court hearings.

Ortega's request was prompted by a report from Chief Supt. Arturo Lomibao, Ilocos police director, that the six Chinese inmates were receiving "special treatment" at the provincial jail.

The six inmates were Shi Jian Hui alias Jacky Sy King; Lim Jian Feng alias Jason Lim; Xu You Kwang alias Johhny Co; Wu Chang; Shi Chun Qi alias Jacky Sy Ocampo; and Zhang Xi Wang alias Michael Zhang.

On June 25, one of them was seen by agents buying something at a drugstore and two days later, another was reported to have withdrawn money from a bank in the city accompanied by a jail guard and driver.

In both instances, the inmates left jail without a court order.

They were also allowed to use the telephone from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. with the permission of the duty jail guard, the report said.

But Arturo Bautista, provincial jail warden, told the INQUIRER that these reports were "exaggerated."

He said there was only one time that he allowed one of the Chinese inmates to go out and this was because he was complaining of extreme pain due to a toothache.

"I used my own discretion . . . but I made sure he was accompanied by a driver and two heavily armed guards," Bautista said.

He added that after a tooth extraction was performed, the inmate was allowed to buy medicine.

He denied that any of the Chinese inmates had gone out to withdraw money from the bank. On the telephone privileges, he said the Chinese inmates' pay phone calls were restricted.

On June 19, when there was a scheduled hearing at the regional trial court, police also recovered from one of the inmates a sketch of the jail premises and a road map showing the location of the regional trial court and routes going to Manila and Balaoan town.

This prompted the police to suspect that they were planning to escape on their way to the hearing.

"They have the financial capability to corrupt jail authorities and carry out their planned escape, waiting only for an opportune time," the report said.

Comelec declares E. Visayas special polls peaceful

By Joey A. Gabieta
PDI Visayas Bureau

TACLOBAN CITY—The Commission on Elections (Comelec) in Eastern Visayas declared as peaceful and orderly the special elections held in the region's 21 villages on Saturday.

Lawyer Adolfo Ibañez, Comelec regional director, said his office did not receive reports of any untoward incident during the special barangay and Sangguniang Kabataan elections in Samar, Northern Samar and Leyte.

"However, I cannot tell you (yet) the turnout of voters but considering that last Saturday's elections were more focused, I can say that the turn out could be high," he told the INQUIRER.

Special elections

He said policemen and soldiers were present inside the 34 polling precincts during the special elections.

These special elections were held in Barangay Patag, Burauen in Leyte and Barangays Carangaran in Silvino Lobos town and Sangpuhan in San Vicente town both in Northern Samar.

Special elections were also held in Barangays Jose Roqo, Paranas town; Marabut in Tarangnan; Ligaya in Matuginao; Burabod I, Palamrag and San Antonio in Gandara; Patong, Langoyon, Gigasaan, Cag-anahaw, Jimatuan and Dinawacan in Calbayog City; Cabang in Hinabangan; Salvacion and Mercedes, Jiabong; Gajo and Matayunas, in Sta. Margarita and Jacopon, Daram, all in Samar.

The Comelec had declared failure of elections in these areas during the July 15 synchronized elections because of terrorism and refusal of the Board of Election Inspectors (BEIs) to serve.

Postponed

Ibañez said the special elections in Barangay Cadi-an, Oras town in Eastern Samar was postponed after Romeo Palijumba, candidate for chairman, asked the Comelec central office to exclude his barangay from the special elections.

Ibañez said Palijumba did not want to hold special elections in Barangay Cadi-an because he said votes had been counted last July 15.

Failure

The Comelec had declared failure of elections in Cadi-an after armed men stole copies of election returns.

Ibañez said that the poll body has yet to schedule special elections in Cadi-an, which has 636 registered voters.

Solon slams importation of RHD cars, vehicles

ADMINISTRATION Rep. Prospero Nograles has called for a reimplementation of a ban on right-hand-drive vehicles (RHDs).

He said in a statement that RHDs that are now flooding the streets pose serious danger to motorists and pedestrians because not a single government agency is responsible for ensuring their road worthiness before they are sold in auction.

During last week's hearing on the ongoing investigation of the proliferation of RHDs, Nograles said he was surprised when the Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority (SBMA), the Land Transportation Office and Department of Trade and Industry admitted that converted RHDs are not required to undergo safety tests before the vehicles are sold.

"We are endangering a lot of people because of this unrestricted entry of RHDs in the country. There is no government agency that is directly in charge of ensuring the safety of these RHDs," his statement said.

Nograles said the importation of these RHDs should be stopped until their safety is assured.

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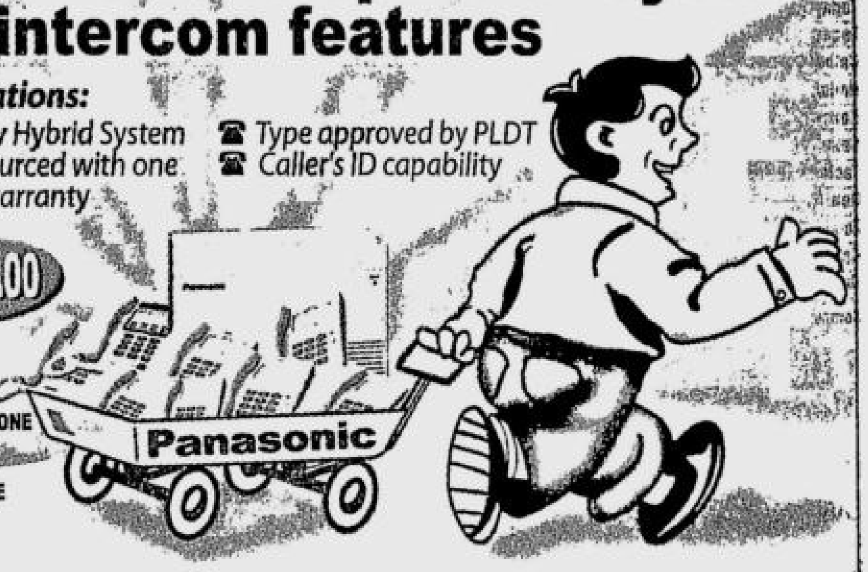

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Per DTI-NCR Permit No A3-527 Series of 2002

GMA shifts target from Abus to Reds

From page A1

the Abu Sayyaf bandit group.

Trade unions, too

Ms Macapagal hinted in her speech that the war on communist rebels would also cover left-leaning trade unions.

"We will wage war against criminals, terrorists, drug addicts, kidnappers, smugglers and those who terrorize factories that provide jobs," Ms Macapagal said.

The President's war declaration came in the wake of reports that communist guerrillas have expanded their areas of operation while government forces were tied up in the Abu Sayyaf campaign.

After years of decline, the NPA is recovering lost ground. Barangays influenced by the NPA increased from 445 in 1995 to 1,969 barangays in 2001 and to 2,262 this year, according to military reports. In the first six months of the year, the NPA added five new guerilla fronts, according to the military.

"We are now focusing on the NPA because of its expansion in the barangays," Cimatu said in Camp Aguinaldo.

The NPA is now estimated to have more than 11,000 members, up from about 6,000 in 1994. The guerrilla army reached a peak of 25,000 in 1987. Infighting in the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) weakened the underground movement.

Following the Sept. 11, 2001 attacks in the United States, Washington included the NPA in the list of terrorist organizations.

Malacañang suspended peace talks with the National Democratic Front, the underground political umbrella of the CPP and its armed wing, the NPA, in June 2001 after the NPA assassinated Cagayan Rep. Rodolfo Aguinaldo.

Attacks

The NPA has been stepping up its attacks against government targets in recent weeks amid calls from its founder, Jose Ma. Sison, for Ms Macapagal to step down from office.

Sison is in self-imposed exile in The Netherlands and issues his directives from his office in Utrecth.

Earlier this month, five NPA rebels and two policemen were killed in a raid on a police station in Catanduanes, while four soldiers and five rebels were slain in a gun battle near Manila.

NDF spokesperson Luis Jalandoni yesterday criticized Ms Macapagal for what he called her "arrogance" in the face of US support for her counter-insurgency campaign.

But Jalandoni said the NPA would continue to launch "tactical offensives, especially in areas where the police and military defenses are weak."

Jalandoni said over dzRH that "the CPP-NPA's policy of guerrilla warfare will continue in more areas," boasting that the NPA now has 128 guerrilla fronts from which to carry out offensives nationwide.

INAUGURAL drive through the Cristobal Bridge in Calamba, Laguna, for President Macapagal with Laguna Gov. Teresita Lazaro (extreme left), DILG Secretary Joey Lina, Vice Gov. Dan Fernandez and Calamba Mayor Severino Lajara. EDWIN BACASMAS

Lay down arms

At the oath taking of barangay officials, the President urged communist guerrillas to lay down their arms. "We will welcome them if they come back," she said.

The President welcomed back 27 former NPA guerrillas, who she said would "start a new life under a strong republic."

Ms Macapagal said that the returnees would be given enough funds to start livelihood projects. She handed them checks for this purpose.

She directed Interior Secretary Jose Lina to brief newly elected barangay officials on how to persuade the people against joining the rebel movement.

The President said many communist rebels were driven to take up arms because of poverty and "wrong and outmoded philosophy."

"Like what I said in my State of the Nation Address, I expect the help of the police, the military, but especially, the help of our newly elected barangay officials," she said.

In Catanauan, Quezon, soldiers picked up on Saturday four suspected members of the NPA, including three minors.

One of the suspects was identified as Carlos Endriga, 20.

The military said charges would be filed against Endriga for recruiting minors into the communist movement.

A military report said members of the 74th Infantry Battalion picked up the four as the soldiers scoured Barangay San Pablo in Suha, Catanauan, at around 7 p.m.

The four, according to the report, were picked up because they were "suspicious-looking." Troops allegedly confiscated a .38 cal. revolver and a cell phone from the group.

In her speech, the President also announced that she had signed an executive order providing all barangay officials with death benefits.

Ms Macapagal, however, joked that she did not want the officials to avail themselves of her "gift" because "I want you to live long."

With a report from AFP

Even cell phone thieves and pickpockets . . .

From page A1

from P250,000 to P1 million.

The President began by presenting five alleged members of the Honda gang. "We have good news for the residents of Metro Manila. Over the weekend, the (police) arrested five members of the Honda robbery-holdup gang that is linked to at least 45 incidents in the metropolis," she said.

San Juan police chief Rodrigo de Gracia said the suspects were arrested midnight on Saturday at the Minabalay Bar and Grill Restaurant in Cainta, Rizal—the same restaurant the gang victimized only on July 31.

They were identified as Reynate Salvacion, alias Rene, 23, of Makati City; Gino Mahinay, alias Dodong, 32, of Cainta, Rizal; Emerito Lague, alias Bong, 34, of Makati City; Dexter Saren, alias Dex, 29, of Caloocan City; and Jay Canlas, alias Jon-Jon, of Manila.

Recovered were a maroon Honda Civic (UJD-796), a green Toyota Revo (WTB-823) and a green Mivier Nissan Taxi (PXK-189).

De Gracia said the gang used stolen vehicles in their operations and simply switched license plate numbers.

The President said the gang struck almost daily.

"They would strike the restaurants in Greenhills almost daily. There are five of them. They even steal cars. Even the sibling of Ambassador Noel Cabrera was victimized. They stole his Revo, changed the plates, then used it in another holdup in Greenhills," she said in Filipino.

In San Juan town, however, Mayor JV Ejercito said the President should not take credit for the arrest of what he called the "Resto gang."

"No other group deserves credit in this successful operation but the San Juan police," Ejercito told the INQUIRER.

He also claimed that De Gracia had received a call from NCRPO Chief Supt. Reynaldo Velasco instructing him not to release any information to the media regarding the arrest of the gang.

THE PRESIDENT stresses a point during the presentation of the criminals at the DOJ on Monday. From left to right: PNP chief Hermogenes Ebdane, NCRPO chief Rey Velasco and DOJ Secretary Hernando Perez. EDWIN BACASMAS

Most wanted

Ms Macapagal commended the "concerned citizens" who gave vital information that led to the immediate arrest of the suspects.

"The information leading to the arrest of the Honda gang members came from a concerned citizen. Just like in the case of (the 12 Sagada-Kalinga robbers) in the Cordillera."

She said the partnership between the police and the citizenry "is the strongest defense we have against criminals. Working together versus crime will build our strong republic."

The two alleged car thieves presented were identified as Victor John Ignacio, alias Kokoy and VJ, 27, of Cainta; and Raymundo Bautista, 25, of Taguig. The two have allegedly stolen 20 cars since 1999.

The President said the two were arrested on Saturday in Cainta, Rizal, while they were sniffing shabu.

Included in the Philippine National Police's 10 Most Wanted list, the two were nabbed by the Central Police District's anti-carnapping unit and the Cainta Police Station while allegedly sniffing shabu at around 9 p.m. on Saturday in Cainta, Rizal.

Judge on trial

The President also told Perez to get tough on judges who abet criminals either in their operations or during trial. The first three on the list: Tabaco, Albay Judge Arnulfo Cabredo, Pasig Judge Rodrigo Lorenzo and Olongapo City Judge Eleudoro Obiada.

"If the private sector can file cases against erring judges, the DOJ can also do so," she said. "So I told Nani (Perez) to file a case against Judge Arnulfo Cabredo."

The President was particularly irked after she was informed that Cabredo issued a temporary restraining order to stop the Bureau of Customs from seizing a ship loaded with 35,000 bags of smuggled rice last year.

"In other words (the ship fled) because of the TRO," Ms Macapagal said.

"I don't know why there was suddenly a TRO against the customs bureau. The ship was able to escape as a result. We will not tolerate this. We won't be masochists for this kind of behavior," she said in Filipino.

Yesterday, Customs Commissioner Tony Bernardo filed smuggling charges with the DOJ against rice importers Antonio Chua Jr. and Carlos Carillo of Tabaco, Albay, Pierre "Peter" N. Toundjis, the president of El Greco Ship Manning and Management Corp. and Yushawu Awudu, a Ghanian national and ship captain of the vessel MV Neptune Breeze.

Cabredo said, however, that the President was misinformed about the rice smuggling case. He maintained that he did not commit any abuse of discretion in ordering the accused to post a bond that corresponded to the value of the rice shipment held by the police.

He added that the case was not in his chamber anymore.

He said that after he denied the motion for the issuance of a permanent injunction, the petition was elevated to the Court of Appeals.

"It's up to the court to weigh the evidence but I believe that the President has no authority over me in my capacity as a judge and in the observance of the rule of law," Cabredo said.

Other judges

Perez identified Lorenzo as the Pasig judge.

Lorenzo allegedly allowed six Chinese nationals arrested in a shabu factory in Pasig early this year to post bail, even though they had been charged with manufacturing and selling shabu, a non-bailable offense.

Perez said that granting the Chinese temporary liberty would have allowed them to flee the country. "So I filed other cases against them for violation of the immigrations law to keep them in jail. They were then rearrested," Perez told reporters after the President left the DOJ.

Perez said he had also ordered the investigation of Prosecutor Conrado Tolentino, who handled the case, for the possible filing of charges. Apparently, Tolentino did not object to the Chinese's petition for bail.

"Both the judge and the prosecutor will be charged. We are doing this to fight irregularities within the judicial system," said Perez.

The third judge, Obiada, allegedly intervened in the seizure of smuggled goods discovered at the Subic Bay freeport last year. Perez said that Obiada also issued a TRO to prevent authorities from seizing the smuggled rice shipment.

The last batch of suspects presented at the briefing were identified as alleged holdup men Allan Saavedra, 31; Jose Lamat, 30, both of Tondo, Manila, and Ruben Crespo, 17, of Quirino Avenue, Manila, allegedly a member of the "Sputnik Gang."

In Malacañang, Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye defended the President's presence during presentations of criminal suspects. "She's just fulfilling this promise (to take a direct hand in the war on crime)," Bunye said.

Responding to criticism that the government was violating the suspects' right to be presumed innocent, he said: "Well probably suggest that they'll be given dark glasses."

"They are not being deprived of their day in court," he emphasized. ***With reports from Job Belen, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau; Jovelyn Reyes, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau; and Nancy Carvajal***

'From US puppy to pit bull'

From page A1

other alleged cronies and big businessmen.

"(Ms Macapagal's) spin doctors are obviously having a hard time packaging and repackaging such a snooty and insensitive President," he said.

"This penchant for PR gimmickry only betrays (her) political ambitions. In the middle of economic and political crisis, all she thinks about is how to look good before the electorate. Now she's all over the front pages and the TV screens posing with criminals and their handlers in the PNP and AFP," Casiño said.

"We will not be surprised if she calls herself the 'savior of the Filipino people' in line with the Marcosian strong republic she espouses," he said.

Bayan Muna party-list Rep. Crispin Beltran, on the other hand, likened her "attempts to project the image of a neighborhood toughie . . . to the tactics used by her predecessor Joseph Estrada."

Beltran also scored the President for her alleged "desperation to keep the police and the military on her side."

"President (Macapagal)-Arroyo is getting more and more militaristic as the days pass. And what's dangerous about her enthusiasm to fight rising criminality is that she doesn't give the same importance to human rights and civil rights. Neither does she care to improve the living standards of the Filipino poor. Nothing has been said about increasing wages and bringing down costs of basic commodities or the rates of social services like health and housing," he said.

Casiño said the President had never treated the public, including her former allies in the oust-Estrada movement, well. He recalled how she tagged Beltran "a communist" for then suggesting the removal of the purchased power adjustment; Balikatan critics as "Abu Sayyaf lovers"; and Boy Saycon of the Council on Philippine Affairs (Copa) as "a termite."

He also recalled that the President had approved a Department of Justice memorandum legalizing the warrantless arrest and illegal detention of thousands of Basilan residents suspected of being members of the Abu Sayyaf.

He said Ms Macapagal had also forced the resignation of Vice President Teofisto Guingona Jr. for his anti-American stance, and scrapped the government policy of "maximum tolerance" on protest rallies and demonstrations.

"In other words, what we are seeing is an uglier and meaner President of the Republic. She is transforming from America's cute little puppy to America's pit bull," Casiño said. ***With a report from Gerald Lacuarta***

Israel bans travel in West Bank

From page A1

break of fighting in September 2000, with Palestinians confined to their communities for extended periods as Israeli troops try to prevent terror attacks.

Palestinians trying to get to jobs and schools often use dirt roads to get around military checkpoints. The military said Monday's announcement of a "total ban" on Palestinian traffic meant that existing blockades would be strictly enforced.

Exemptions would be made in humanitarian cases, the military said.

Tanks move in

In Gaza, about 25 tanks took up positions on the main north-south road, cutting off the southern town of Rafah and an adjacent refugee camp from the rest of the strip. The Army said it imposed the blockade to prevent attacks on Israelis. Rafah has been a flashpoint of violence.

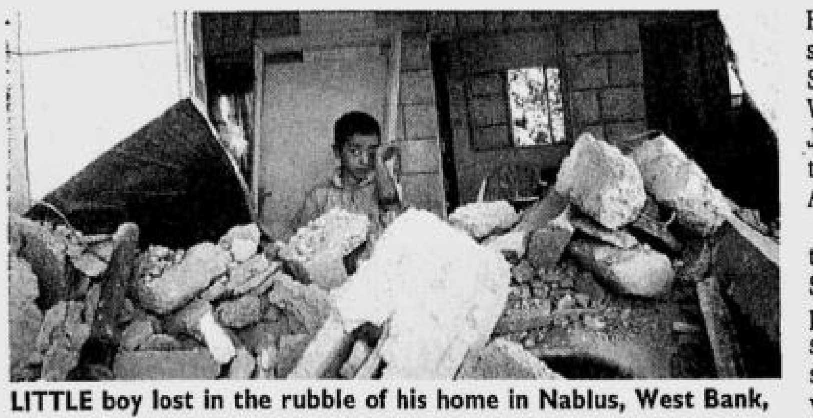
Palestinian attacks on Israelis have killed 27 people since an Israeli air strike on July 22 killed Hamas commander Salah Shehadeh and 14 Palestinians, many of them, children, in Gaza.

The attacks—which came despite Israel's occupation of seven of the eight main West Bank towns—raised questions about the Army's dwindling repertoire of responses.

In trying to deter attacks, the Army demolished nine homes of Palestinian assailants Sunday, reviving a practice abandoned several years ago. Another proposed deterrent, the deportation of relatives of attackers, is being challenged in court. Ben-Eliezer said he hoped to go ahead with the deportations.

Couple killed

In the latest violence, a West Bank shooting early Monday, an Israeli couple was killed when Palestinian gunmen opened fire on a car on the main road between Ramallah and Nablus. Two of the couple's children were wounded and a third, an 8-month-old baby, was unhurt. Also Monday, the Army continued its search of wanted Palestinians and bomb factories in Nablus, the West Bank's largest city.



LITTLE boy lost in the rubble of his home in Nablus, West Bank, after Israeli bombs bombed the houses of Hamas members. AFP

In Sunday's deadliest attack, a Palestinian suicide bomber blew himself up on a bus packed with soldiers and civilians. Nine passengers and the bomber were killed.

The bombing, at Meron Junction in the Galilee region of northern Israel, turned the green bus into a fireball, charring the insides and ripping the metal panels as if they were ribbons.

The dead included three Israeli soldiers, two Filipino women and one Arab Israeli woman. Thirty-seven people were injured, two critically.

Screaming

"There was a lot of screaming, horrible screaming inside the bus," said Avraham Freed, who owns a restaurant near the blast site. "I saw one person on the ground next to the bus—bodies, parts of bodies, people jumping through the windows."

The bus driver, Shmuel Ronen, escaped with light wounds—just as he did six years ago when the bus he was driving in Jerusalem was bombed.

The IslCamic militant group Hamas, which has vowed revenge for the July 22 air strike in Gaza, claimed responsibility. Hamas said the bombing was the second retaliatory strike for Shehadeh's killing, following a Wednesday bombing at Jerusalem's Hebrew University that killed seven, including five Americans.

About 4,000 people celebrated the bus bombing in Gaza City late Sunday, passing out sweets and praying near Shehadeh's destroyed house, where militants shouting over loudspeakers vowed to "avenge every drop of his blood."

"We advise (Israelis) to prepare more bodybags and wait for the coming operations," a masked Hamas militant said during the rally.

Hours after Sunday's bombing, a shooting attack in Jerusalem's Old City left three people dead, including the assailant.

In the northern Gaza Strip, a Palestinian armed with a rifle and grenades was shot and killed as he emerged from the Mediterranean in a wetsuit and diving equipment near the Jewish settlements of Dugit and Alei Sinai, the Army said.

Israeli soldiers also fatally shot two Palestinians, including a fugitive local leader of Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat's Fatah movement, as they emerged from a house in the village of Borqa north of Nablus, relatives said.

The men were killed, and four other people arrested, after troops surrounded the house and ordered them out, the relatives said.

Bush distressed

US President George W. Bush said he was "distressed" to learn about the latest bombing. "There are a few killers who want to stop the peace process," Bush said.

The Israeli government said Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat, who turned 73 on Sunday, bore ultimate responsibility for not reining in militants during the 22 months of Mideast fighting.

The Palestinian leadership condemned the bombing, but also accused Sharon of "war crimes" for the Israeli Army's mass detentions, home demolitions and curfews imposed on Palestinians. *AP*

2 Pinay caregivers died in suicide blast

From page A1

raelis, the Filipino community in Israel in coordination with the Philippine Embassy had implemented a car pool system to ferry Filipinos to and from their workplaces on weekdays.

"The Philippine Embassy designed a security program (that includes) a car pool system (in keeping with) a strict instruction to Filipinos not to board public buses at any time and any point in Israel," Ople said.

But car pools are not available on Sundays, he added.

Sto. Tomas said both Cunanan and Ruga were legitimate workers entitled to benefits including repatriation costs, lump-sum payments and pensions from the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration.

She said their dependents would receive a lifetime pension of around $2,000 a month from the National Insurance Institute–Ministry of Labor in Israel.

The repatriation of their remains is expected within the week, she said.

Nearest

Citing reports from the labor office in Tel Aviv, Sto. Tomas said Cunanan came nearest to the suicide bomber, who had just stepped into the bus, as she, Ruga and an Israeli woman were to disembark at the Satsufa Moshav bus stop.

Cunanan, whose husband works in Saudi Arabia, was hired through the Smadar Manpower Agency in Israel where her sister-in-law lives.

Ruga was contracted through the Maof-Guy et Aharon Manpower Agency.

Orlando Maliwanag, provincial information officer of Oriental Mindoro, said Ruga's mother had been informed of the tragedy. The Rugas live in Barangay Sumagui, which is two hours away from the capital of Calapan.

Edmundo Ruga, Luzon coordinator of the CBCP Migrant Commission and the first cousin of Rebecca Ruga, told the Inquirer that Rebecca had been staying in Israel for barely a year. The fourth in a brood of eight, she had been supporting her family.

Rebecca's husband died in the Philippines during her sixth month of stay in Israel and the couple did not have a child.

Sto. Tomas appealed to the Filipino workers in Israel to "please stay away from populated areas and, as much as possible, please try not to go out on your day off."

She noted that the suicide bombings occurred mostly on weekends and in public establishments or vehicles.

The Associated Press quoted Victoriano Lecaros, spokesperson of the Department of Foreign Affairs, as saying that the deaths of Cunanan and Ruga brought to three the number of Filipinos killed in Israel in the last eight months.

Lecaros said many Filipinos were working in Israel as helpers and caregivers, and were recruited by relatives already working there.

But the bombings are "not enough to stop deployment to Israel or start the evacuation of Filipinos there," Sto. Tomas said.

She said that many of the 36,000 Filipinos working in Israel had refused to leave their jobs, and that most of the caregivers were well liked by their employers.

According to Ople, as many as 20,000 Filipinos in Israel are undocumented.

No evacuation

Ople said members of the Filipino community in Israel had consistently rejected the embassy's proposal that they be evacuated.

He quoted them as saying that they were not directly affected by the increasingly violent conflict between Palestinians and Israelis.

"In spite of the risks, the Filipinos in Israel refuse to be evacuated, such that the embassy was forced to formulate security measures," he said, adding:

"The embassy has been instructed to update safety guidelines, which it formulated much earlier in consultation with the Filipino community members themselves."

Ople said Filipinos planning to travel to Israel were discouraged from doing so.

He said he had directed Ambassador to Israel Marciano Paynor to facilitate the immediate repatriation of the remains of Ruga and Cunanan.

"I am deeply saddened by the reported death of two Filipino citizens," Ople said. "I regret the deaths and deplore the continued suicide bombings. We hope that the peace initiative being undertaken by the United Nations will soon bear fruit, so that the safety of our people there will not be imperiled."

Sto. Tomas also expressed grief at the deaths of Cunanan and Ruga.

"I wish to offer my condolences to the families of the two victims," she said in a statement. "It pains me so much every time I receive news like this because our migrant workers are caught in the crossfire, such as what is happening between Israel and the Palestinians." ***With reports from AP, Cynthia D. Balana and Diwa Aquino, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau***

'But why did you suddenly ride a bus?'

From page A1

sister had always taken a train to get to the house where she cared for an old couple.

Lagunilla said Adelina's fellow caregivers called him Sunday to tell him that in trying to get to work on time, she had taken the bus. It was Vice Consul Elmer Cato of the Department of Foreign Affairs who told him at past 6 p.m. yesterday about what turned out to be his sister's last trip.

Breaking the news of Adelina's death to her parents was so difficult, according to her cousin Fina Navarro.

Lagunilla said he had to lie and tell his parents that the TV set had conked out. The elder Lagunillas had been practically glued to the set since news of the latest suicide bombing was reported.

The father had phoned his daughter weekly, reminding her to take care amid the danger of working in Israel.

Navarro said their neighbors in Barangay San Francisco 2 had been quiet about the tragedy, to spare the elder Lagunillas who are both in frail health.

But they have begun clearing the chapel of mud from the floodwaters, preparing for the return of the woman they unanimously described as a "good daughter."

Breadwinner

Adelina, fifth in a brood of 12, was the breadwinner of her parents and siblings, a weeping Lagunilla said.

In the past, the parents sold pork in the Minalin public market, where Adelina herself sold noodles and snacks before leaving for Israel five years and three months ago.

Minalin Mayor Edgar Flores said Adelina's case was the classic story of Filipinos working overseas to provide their kin a better life.

Adelina not only sent her son Neil, 20, and her daughter Gladys to school. She also spent for her father's heart surgery and for her parents' daily medication.

Lagunilla's jeep was repaired at her expense. She also sent several nephews and nieces to the University of Assumption in the City of San Fernando.

"She's been a very dutiful daughter, one who wanted to save her family and her clan from poverty," Barangay Captain Benito Tongol told the Inquirer.

Adelina made her last overseas call on July 26. She inquired how her children and her family were doing, the village having been flooded for almost three weeks.

Her relatives wept on remembering that she was to mark a birthday on Aug. 15.

They also remembered that when she visited Minalin last May for the town fiesta, she laid out a feast for the entire clan.

Coming home

Lagunilla said Adelina planned to come home in March in time for the 18th birthday of Gladys, who is studying pharmacy at the Centro Escolar University.

Gladys said she wished that her mother never left home.

She said her mother wanted her to be a doctor—a dream that her father Henry Cunanan, who works in Jeddah, is also striving to achieve.

Henry learned about his wife's death through friends in Tel Aviv. He is scheduled to fly in on Wednesday, the same day her remains are expected.

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SPORTS

Editor **Al S. Mendoza** ◉ *Assistant Editor* **Edwin M. Villanueva**

San Sebastian beats Letran

By June Navarro

Standings	W	L	Standings	W	L
PCU	6	1	Letran	3	4
CSB	6	1	Mapua	3	4
SSC	5	2	UPHR	1	6
JRU	4	3	San Beda	0	7

GAMES TOMORROW (Makati Coliseum)
2 p.m.—CSB vs UPHR (srs)
4 p.m.—PCU vs San Beda (srs)

SAN Sebastian College punctured Letran's internal defense as the defending champion Stags hammered a 72-62 victory last night to stay close with the leaders in the NCAA basketball tournament at the Rizal Memorial Coliseum.

Jam Alfad banged in 13 of his 18 points in the final half as the Stags demolished the Knights with a fluid motion offense aimed at delivering the blows inside the paint.

The Stags closed their first-round campaign at 5-2, a game behind tournament pacesetters Philippine Christian University and College of St. Benilde (6-1).

Losing steam as the Stags violently attacked the middle, the Knights were left helpless as take-charge guy Ronjay Enrile found it hard to operate. Enrile finished with a career-low nine points.

Rookie Jonathan Aldave also took the night off, leaving Harold Sta. Cruz to carry the fight for the Knights, who fell to their second straight setback for a 3-4 record.

Jose Rizal University bombarded University of Perpetual Help-Rizal with three-pointers in the homestretch to score an 84-76 triumph in the other seniors game.

Marco Polo Fajardo unloaded two of his four triples while Winsjohn Te and Joel Villarin uncorked a three-pointer each as the Heavy Bombers fended off the Altas' last-ditch efforts.

The Heavy Bombers closed out their first-round stint sporting a 4-3 card while the Altas plunged to a fifth loss, their sixth in seven games overall.

"At least half of the mission was accomplished. Hopefully, we could sustain what we have started," said JRU coach Boy De Vera, who lost six reliable veterans this year, including last year's MVP Nani Epondulan and Ariel Capus.

But the exodus of these cagers wasn't really felt by the Heavy Bombers yesterday as Fajardo, Te and rookie-sensation Edward Attunaga more than filled in the void.

Fajardo fired 26 points, including a 4-of-6 shooting from beyond the arc, while Attunaga, whose heroic exploits steered the Heavy Bombers to a thrilling 100-96 overtime win over Letran last week, got away with 16 markers.

Marcel Cuenco kept the Altas afloat in the dying minutes, 75-79, but his efforts proved worthless as the Heavy Bombers signed their fate courtesy of Joel Finuliar's freethrows in the final 44 seconds.

Earlier, Mapua boosted its stock to 3-4 with an 84-68 bashing of winless San Beda College, which failed to enter into the win column for the seventh straight time.

Rookie Jofferson Gonzales scored 15 points and led a balanced scoring attack for the Cardinals with Edcel Feliciano, Erwin Sta. Maria and Robbie David also finishing in double figures.

First Game (Seniors)

MAPUA 84—Gonzales 15, Feliciano 13, Sta. Maria 12, David 10, Salud 8, Lagar 8, Cruz 8, Dula 4, Veranga 3, Bangoy 3.

SAN BEDA 68—Cordero 21, Webber 11, Gutilban 10, Paterno 6, Hudencial 4, Baldivia 4, Bombeo 4, Velasco 4, Ong 3, Merelos 1.

Quarters: 24-16, 49-31, 66-44, 84-68.

Second Game (Seniors)

JOSE RIZAL 84—Fajardo 26, Attunaga 16, Te 14, Finuliar 8, Villarin 7, Estolano 6, Santos 5, De Vera 2, Paule 0, Gallelero 0, Jorge 0.

UPHR 76—Cuenco 22, Javier 12, Balboa 10, Botin 8, Cosme 7, Quiazon 7, Aseron 5, Tayer 3, Hawkins 2, Romulo 0.

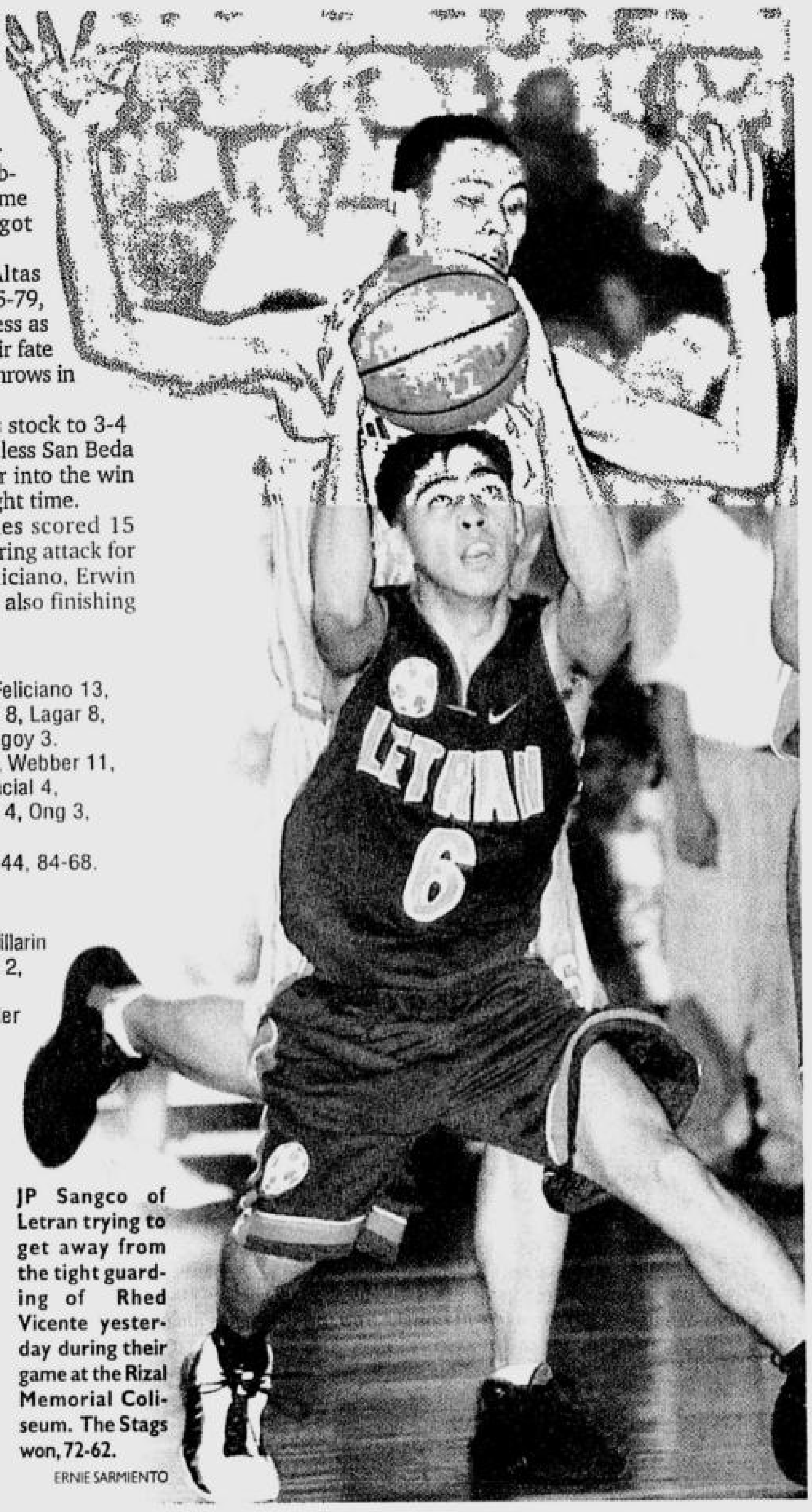
Quarters: 19-19, 42-38, 59-all, 84-76.

Third Game (Seniors)

SAN SEBASTIAN 72—Alfad 18, Najorda 14, Falscasantos 11, Vicente 9, Baluyot 6, Gonzales 5, Coronel 4, Reguerra 4, Legarda 1, Uy 0, Nadela 0

LETRAN 62—Santa Cruz 14, Aldave12, Enrile 9, Ebajay 5, Sillona 5, Edwards 5, Rodriguez 4, Santos 4, Bautista 3, Aban 1, Sangco 0.

Quarters: 12-14, 33-30, 60-52, 72-62.



JP Sangco of Letran trying to get away from the tight guarding of Rhed Vicente yesterday during their game at the Rizal Memorial Coliseum. The Stags won, 72-62.

ERNIE SARMIENTO

Smart supports Fil-Am golfest

SMART Communications will sponsor the 53rd Fil-Am Golf Invitational tournament, which unfurls on Dec. 2 at the Camp John Hay and Baguio Country Club.

Smart officials Polly Nazareno and Boy Martirez said Smart is committed to support the Fil-Am, the biggest and longest running team golf event in the country.

Promotions head Miles Inocentes and VIP clients head Julie Carceller will personally attend the Smart showcase and special events during the Fil-Am week. Competitors and their guests will be treated to surprises during the week-long tournament.

Martirez said the Fil-Am boasts of a proud and colorful tradition.

"Fifty-two colorful years have passed since Filipino screen legend Rogelio de la Rosa and Archie Black with Tucker West of American Base (Camp John Hay) started this event," said Martirez. "Mr. Robert John Sobrepeña in partnership with the Baguio Country Club and John Hay is preserving the Fil-Am tradition. Smart is happy to play a major role in the event."

The new Camp John Hay Manor Hotel and Baguio Country Club are the official hotels for the participants.

Coach

SPECTATOR

Al S. Mendoza

WHEN I was a kid, I knew someone who hit the big time by accident. His name was Sirib Bassit.

Sirib loved basketball so much he spent all his free time playing the game. He was a mediocre player, though. But the big shots in our neighborhood were fond of him. Sirib's basketball skills never bothered them. They loved him for what he was: Friendly, always smiling. They sent Sirib on errands, and never heard Sirib complain not even once.

One time, the neighborhood needed someone to coach the basketball team that will represent us to the provincial meet. Finding none, they tapped Sirib for the job.

"Why me?" said Sirib. "What do I know to deserve the position?"

"You are a nice guy," said Lastog Met, the neighborhood's acknowledged chief (there was no barangay yet then). "Because you smile a lot, I'm sure you can coach our team to victory."

"I may not be up to the task," said Sirib, trying to pursue his protest. "I'm good at doing errands, like buying your lambanog or ciggies. But coaching? Not me, boss."

But Lastog Met would hear no more from him.

"You are my choice," said Lastog Met, who was known then as the ultimate authority in the neighborhood. "Prepare the boys immediately."

Reluctantly, he obliged.

But Sirib Bassit ran into a stymie immediately. The tournament was just a week away. Next, an outbreak of hiccups hit the neighborhood. Four of his mainstays were down with it a day before the team was to depart for the city, venue of the tournament. Just hours before they boarded their *kariton* and *kalesa*, two more deserted the squad to be by their girl friends' side—both beauties were also down with hiccups.

Sirib Bassit had that despondent look when he and his decimated lineup took off. But amazingly, just minutes before his team would play its first game, he gathered his boys and told them: "We may be outnumbered, but never will we allow ourselves to be outfought."

But brave words were not enough. Because they were terribly undermanned (6 players), they did not only lose their first game. They also lost all their succeeding games (50). They placed last among 51 teams.

Whey they got home, a streamer screamed: "Hang Sirib Bassit!"

Hanged he was.

Said Lastog Met: "He was the nicest errand boy I've ever known."

Caoili cops Grandmaster norm

By Dennis U. Eroa

WOMEN'S chess sensation International Master Arianne Caoili gave the Philippines something to cheer about when she earned her first Grandmaster's norm by finishing third in the recent Australian Masters in Melbourne.

The 15-year-old Caoili, who will banner the Philippine team to this year's World Chess Olympiad in Bled, Slovenia, settled for a draw against Australian IM Mirko Rujevik in the final round for eight points. The match lasted 120 moves.

The Filipina, whose mother is an Australian, shared the lead with IMs Guy West and Michael Gluzman going into the final round. West and Gluzman downed their respective foes to finish with 8.5 points each.

West eventually won the title via the countback.

CAOILI

Arianne's Manila-based father Arnold thanked the Philippine Sports Commission headed by Eric Buhain for his daughter's feat.

"Arianne's stint was realized through the support of the PSC," said the elder Caoili. He said it is hoped that the PSC will not "get tired helping" his daughter achieve her dream of becoming the first Filipina Grandmaster.

"Arianne is planning to go to Europe early for the Olympiad in September," the chess player's father. "If she'll get PSC's support anew, my daughter will be able to compete in a world-rated tournament before the Olympiad. Hopefully, she can get another norm there with another worthy performance," Arnold said.

In his congratulatory note to Arianne, Buhain said: "Although missing out on her share of first prize, Arianne's performance bodes very well for the future of this bright star."

The tournament featured Australia's top chessers, including campaigners from New Zealand, England and France. The event was sponsored by the Federation Group Pty Ltd, Halisteem Pty Ltd, Chess World, Melbourne City Council and the Reserve Bank of Australia.

Malaysia, RP bets top Asian karting

CARMONA, Cavite—Malaysia swept top honors in both the Formula A and Formula Rotax 125, even as the Philippines dominated the intercon, junior and cadet categories at the conclusion of the Shell-Casino Filipino CIK-FIA Asia Open Zone Karting championships before a big weekend crowd at the Carmona Racing Circuit.

Asian Kart Prix champion Mohamad Farriz displayed superbly driving skills under grinding pressure to emerge as the overall champion in the centerpiece Formula A category of this prestigious event organized by the Carmona Circuit Philippines and the Automotive Association of the Philippines (AAP) and sponsored by Shell and Casino Filipino.

The 18-year-old Malaysian champion, who took up karting seriously in 1994, outduelled veteran Pepon Marave in the first race and Allan Uy in the second race to clinch top honors in the day-long competition also supported by Pagcor, Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office, Bridgestone Tires, ZED, Haagen-Dazs and Palmaer Asia Inc.

A two-time Malaysian national champion, Parriz clocked 20 minutes and 22.308 seconds in the 24-lap race or 2.857 seconds ahead of Marave.

Zahir Ali, the 15-year-old sensation from Indonesia, finished fourth while Manuel Sy of the Philippines wound up fifth in the first race.

Farriz's teammate, Mohamad Ferhan, also posted back-to-back victories over Filipino champions Lee Bumgarner and Philip Alvenida in the Formula Rotax 125 to complete a rare double celebration for the five-man Malaysian team.

Ferhan, who finished 25th in the World Seires in Langkawi early this year, came up with a brilliant but steady run during the 20-lap race at the 2.8 kilometer racetrack to steal the limelight from his equally talented Filipino rivals. The 25-year-old Malaysian clocked 27:28:703 in the first race and 18:01.600 in the second race.

FedEx vs Red Bull today

FEDERAL Express needs to beat only one of its last two opponents to enter the quarterfinals trouble-free.

The Express, however, must do it the hard way as they tackle top performer Batang Red Bull today in the PBA Samsung Commissioner's Cup at the Philsports Arena.

Enjoying a face-lift with the arrival of Vergel Meneses, the Express will ride the wind of their shocking 92-90 win over second-running Sta. Lucia Realty last week against the Thunder at 7 p.m.

Meneses, the high-flying acrobatic swingman who won MVP honors in 1995, gave the Express their money's worth as he sparkled in the end game against the towering Realtors.

June Navarro

BLAST FROM THE PAST

TODAY in 1995, Francis Gaston shot a net five-under-par 67 to win Class A honor in the 12th leg of the Johnnie Walker Golf Series in Cabuyao, Laguna. Also today in 1995, Analiza Gerona clocked 1:40:28 to rule the distaff side in the Crossing to Crossing 20-kilometer run in Davao City.

Thorpe misses Spitz's record, but emerges Games' greatest

MANCHESTER, England —Ian Thorpe won six gold medals at Manchester and left his huge impression on the Commonwealth Games.

Owner of 11 Olympic or world championship titles and 18 world records–including the 400 freestyle mark that he lowered in his first final here–Thorpe added his latest haul to the four he won in 1998 to join Susie O'Neill as the greatest athlete ever at the Commonwealth Games.

Yet it was his silver in the backstroke that attracted all the hype.

The 19-year-old Aussie was swimming in seven events, including the 100-meters backstroke for the first time at a senior international meet, and was tipped to match American Mark Spitz's record seven golds from the 1972 Munich Olympics.

As he won five gold in his first five finals, becoming the first man to win the 100-, 200- and 400-meters freestyle triple at the Commonwealth Games and anchoring two winning relays, the expectations mounted.

The great Spitz weighed in, saying if anyone could match his record it would be Thorpe.

But it all crashed in the backstroke, where he finished second behind teammate and world champion Matt Welsh.

Welsh, who also won the 50 backstroke and was disqualified after setting the fastest time in the 200 semifinals, said he "wasn't out to get" Thorpe.

"He came to my party ... it's my race, it's been my race for quite a few years."

"There's no disappointment. I've done my best, I can be happy," Thorpe said. "I never focused on getting seven golds, I just concentrated on seven races."

The pair joined forces Sunday on the winning medley relay, the final event on the program. Also on the team were Geoff Huegill, who won the 50- and 100-meters butterflies, and 200 breaststroke champion Jim Piper.

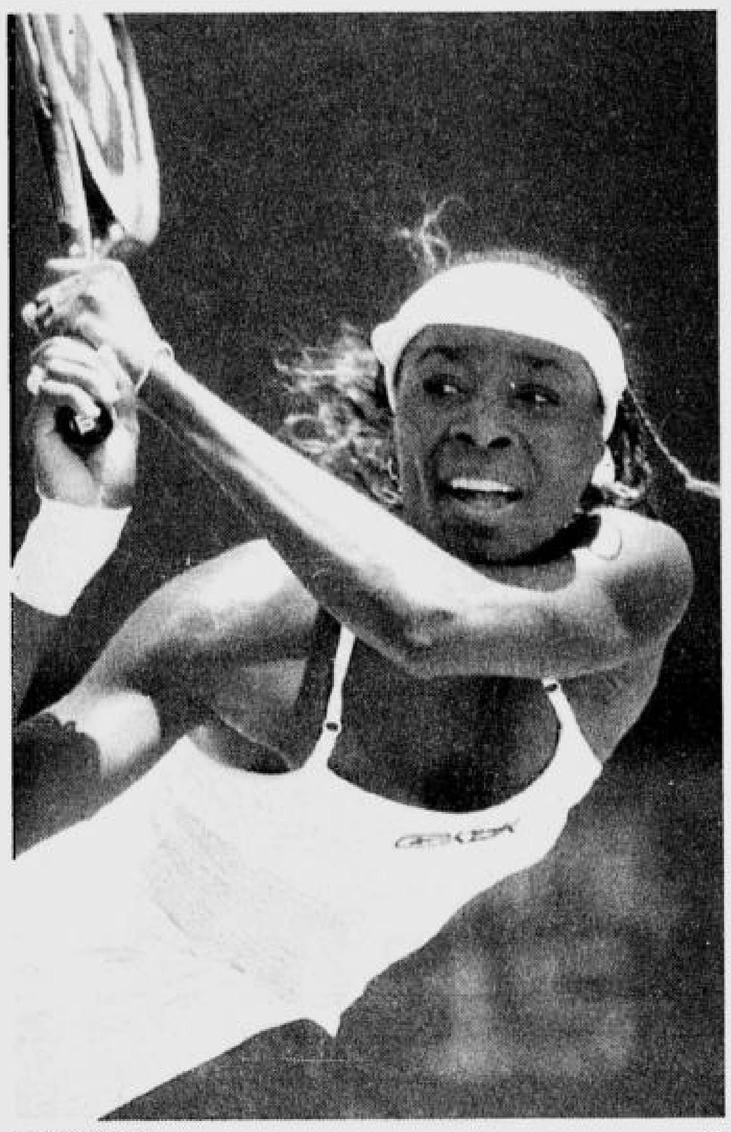
"It's been a fantastic games," said Thorpe. And, "It's been a very successful games for me personally ... I'm just pleased to have been part of it."

Thorpe tied O'Neill's 10 medals as the most successful career haul at the Commonwealth Games. And he also shared the best performance at a single Games with O'Neill (1988) and Canada's Graham Smith, who won six swimming gold at Edmonton in 1978.

The Australians dominated in the pool, winning 27 gold, 13 silver and eight bronze across 42 events. *AP*

THORPE

Congress: Probe quintet debacle in KL



EASY WIN AP

Venus Williams makes a backhand return against Jelena Dokic. Williams prevailed, 6-2, 6-2, to keep her crown in the Acura Tennis Classic in Carlsbad, California. In Toronto, Argentinian Guillermo Canas beat American Andy Roddick, 6-4, 7-5, to pocket the $2.95-million Masters.

BAP's Tan defends team

By Marc Anthony Reyes

REP. Monico Puentevella will conduct an inquiry into the Philippine youth team's ignominious fourth-place finish in the recent Southeast Asia junior men's basketball championship held in Kuala Lumpur.

The inquiry on Aug. 21 will invite the team coaches, officials and players. School officials, who reportedly refused to allow their players to represent the country in the tournament, will also be invited.

Puentevella, House chair of youth and sports, described the debacle "a monumental dishonor to the country."

The defending RP Team finished fourth out of five competitors. Singapore, its lone victim, was fifth.

"First, we want to know if they were ready when they flew to Kuala Lumpur," Puentevella told the INQUIRER. "Because if they were just going to send an ill-prepared team to compete, they shouldn't have sent a team at all."

The Philippines bowed to Indonesia (70-65), Malaysia (57-55) and Thailand (77-59) for the country's worst performance in the event which it used to dominate.

But Christian Tan, executive vice president of the Basketball Association of the Philippines, said the country's setback was due mainly to the inability of six mainstays to join the team to Kuala Lumpur.

"Only half of the original lineup that played in the Philippine Basketball League were in KL," said Tan. "Our participation was a debacle waiting to happen because we had serious manpower problems."

Tan also defended coach Johny Tam. "He is already down so why don't we offer our hand so he can stand up?" he said.

Tan said Tam and the players do not deserve "the flak because the team was badly depleted in the first place before it flew to Kuala Lumpur."

Said Tan: "They stayed on despite impending debacle staring them in the face. I doff my hat to the players who hung on when their teammates deserted them one after the other."

Yugoslavia tops World Cup

ISTANBUL, Turkey—European Champion Yugoslavia crushed Canada, 101-82, Sunday to take first place at the Efes Pilsen Istanbul World Cup basketball tournament.

Yugoslavia held a 26-22 lead at the end of the first period and exploded after that. By half time, the Balkan nation was running circles around the Canadians to hold a 58-36 advantage.

Canada did put up a fight in the third quarter, tightening its defense and scoring 29 points in the period to make up some ground. Yugoslavia only basketed 14 points, but the period still ended 72-65 in Yugoslavia's favor. *AP*

Visayas winners advance to adidas finals

UNIVERSITY of Southern Philippines, University of San Carlos and University of the Visayas stamped their class last weekend over a tough field to emerge champions of the adidas Streetball Challenge 2002 Visayas eliminations sponsored by Growee and WGA Zip in cooperation with Gatorade, Absolute pure distilled drinking water, Zed, Taylormade Golf, Salomon, Magic 89.9 dwTM and 99.5 RT at the SM City in Cebu.

Swift player Lyndon Mercader tallied half of his team's total production to power University of Southern Philippines to victory over a hapless Cebu Institute of Technology squad, 13-8, and top the Juniors division.

Mercader scored a game-high seven points and was ably supported by Bo Dabuco, Francis Alburo and Joseph Escober.

In the girls division, University of San Carlos, led by Muche Miro, beat University of the Visayas, 10-9. Other members of the USC were Jusabelle Brillo, Susette Cuyos and Janet Fegarido.

In the Midgets division, Jose Marie Cuico and Karlo Pacana also powered University of San Carlos to victory over University of San Jose-Recoletos, 13-8.

Robert Codilla and Lawerence Marano were USC's other players.

The winners from the Visayas will advance to the adidas Streetball Challenge 2002 National Finals on Aug. 17 and 18 in Cebu City.

Winning girls and seniors teams will represent the country in the Asian Finals of the adidas Streetball Challenge in Shanghai, China, from Aug. 29 to Sept. 1.

Trophies and cash prizes were awarded by adidas officials John Alonte, Angelica Suiza, sports marketing assistant manager Goody Custodio and tournament director Noel Ascue.

Asiad not for exposure

CLEAN LIVING

Manolo R. Iñigo

"THE ASIAN Games are no longer for the athletes' international exposure but for honest-to-goodness competition." This was stressed by the late Col. Nereo Andolong when he was the chair of the Philippine Olympic Committee screening committee for the 1994 Hiroshima Asian Games.

Andolong, also a former POC president, had batted for a compact and competitive delegation to Hiroshima led by athletes with chances of winning medals, a recommendation which was subsequently approved by the POC (then headed by Rene Cruz). In that Asiad, the country sent only 97 athletes, who won—despite their limited number—three gold medals, all from boxing, courtesy of light-flyweight Mansueto "Onyok" Velasco, flyweight Elias Recaido and light-welterweight Reynaldo Galido. The Philippines finished 13th overall in Hiroshima.

In the 1998 Bangkok Asiad, the delegation ballooned to 252 athletes. However, in spite of the bloated list, the country's chances were not boosted at all. The Philippines only won one medal in 9-ball men's doubles billiards, landing a miserable 21st overall and narrowly nosing out newcomer Vietnam by just one bronze medal in the standings.

Now comes POC president Celso Dayrit who was quoted as saying that the number of athletes bound for this year's Asian Games in Busan, South Korea, is likely to exceed 200, stressing that the POC should not be tied down by the number of athletes earlier projected. Dayrit said their main concern is to "think what's best for Philippine sports."

The POC had earlier approved the inclusion of the 22-man baseball team and at least four athletes from table tennis, tennis, squash and badminton even though these athletes failed to meet the qualifying standard set by the Task Force headed by Tom Carrasco. The minimum qualifying standard prescribed by PSC-POC Task Force is a bronze medal finish in last year's Southeast Asian Games.

"This qualifying standard," according to former PSC chair Aparicio Mequi, president of the Philippine Association of Physical Educators, Inc., "will surely make junketeers of most of the athletes who will go to Busan because their third place personal records, when compared with their counterparts from non-SEAG countries such as China, Japan and South Korea, will not even enable them to make it to the quarterfinals. In other words, most of those who will qualify for membership in the delegation are the best in the lowest level of international competition, the best among the worst, so to speak."

SPORTSWATCH

Bonds 2 homers short

PITTSBURGH—Barry Bonds hit his 598th career homer, one of six San Francisco home runs, and J.T. Snow had a three-run shot and five RBIs as the Giants roughed up the Pittsburgh Pirates 10-5 Sunday. Bonds went 3-for-4 and scored three times while homering for the second game in a row. His 31st home run of the season led off the ninth inning and left him two away from joining Hank Aaron, Babe Ruth and Willie Mays as the only players with 600 homers. *AP*

Mayol wins, donates

CEBU CITY—Rodel Mayol slugged it out with Niño Suelo before winning the Philippine minimum weight title last weekend via a 12-round unanimous decision in Mandaue City. After his victory, Mayol, now 11-0 with 9 knockouts, donated P20,000 of his P50,000 champion's purse to injured fighter Sonny Boco. Boco, who also received P20,000 each from golfer Gerard Cantada and promoter Rex "Wakee" Salud, is recuperating from a brain surgery after he got knocked out last April in a Pan Asian Boxing Association bout in Bangkok. *Rey Danseco*

Beem bags International

CASTLE ROCK, Colorado—Rich Beem carded seven birdies and made a critical eagle on the 17th hole to hold off a furious rally by Steve Lowery and claim The International on Sunday. Beem beat Lowery by a single point for his second career victory. In his final five holes, Lowery had a rare double eagle, an eagle and a birdie.

Lowery holed out a 6-iron from 200 yards (182 meters) on the par-5 17th for a double-eagle 2, gaining 8 points and cutting the deficit to 1. Beem parred the 18th, then watched anxiously from the side of the green as Lowery, with a 10-foot (16-meter) birdie putt for the win, ran it just past the left edge. In Dublin, Ohio, Mi Hyun Kim sidestepped a late collapse Sunday to hold off fellow South Korean Hee-Won Han and win the Wendy's Championship for Children by one stroke. Also winning were Hubert Green in the Long Island Classic after making a 25-foot putt on the seventh playoff hole, Graeme McDowell in the Scandinavian Masters, Laura Davies in the Norwegian Masters for her 64th career title and Jay Delsing in the Buy.com Tour Omaha Classic.

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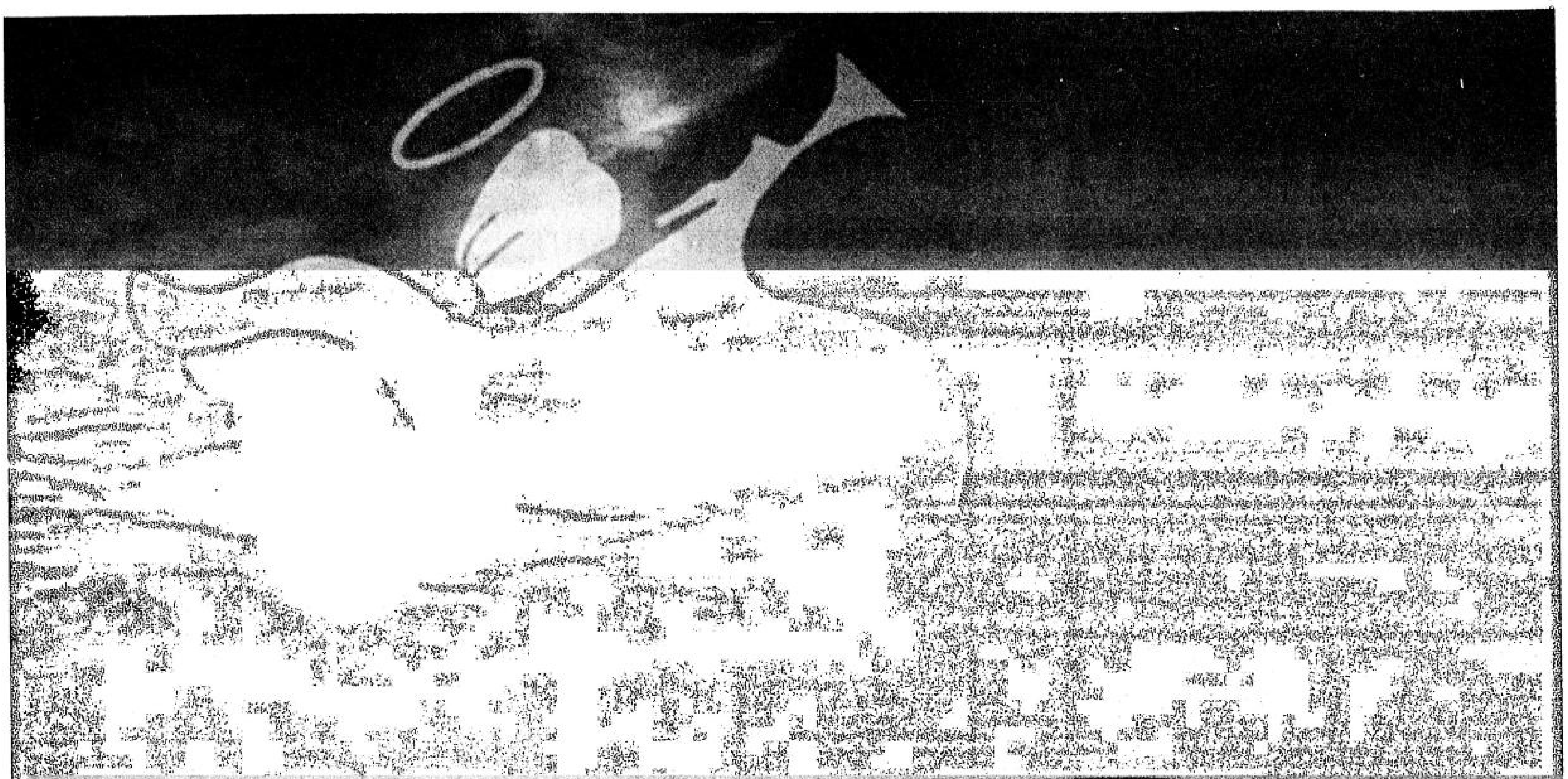

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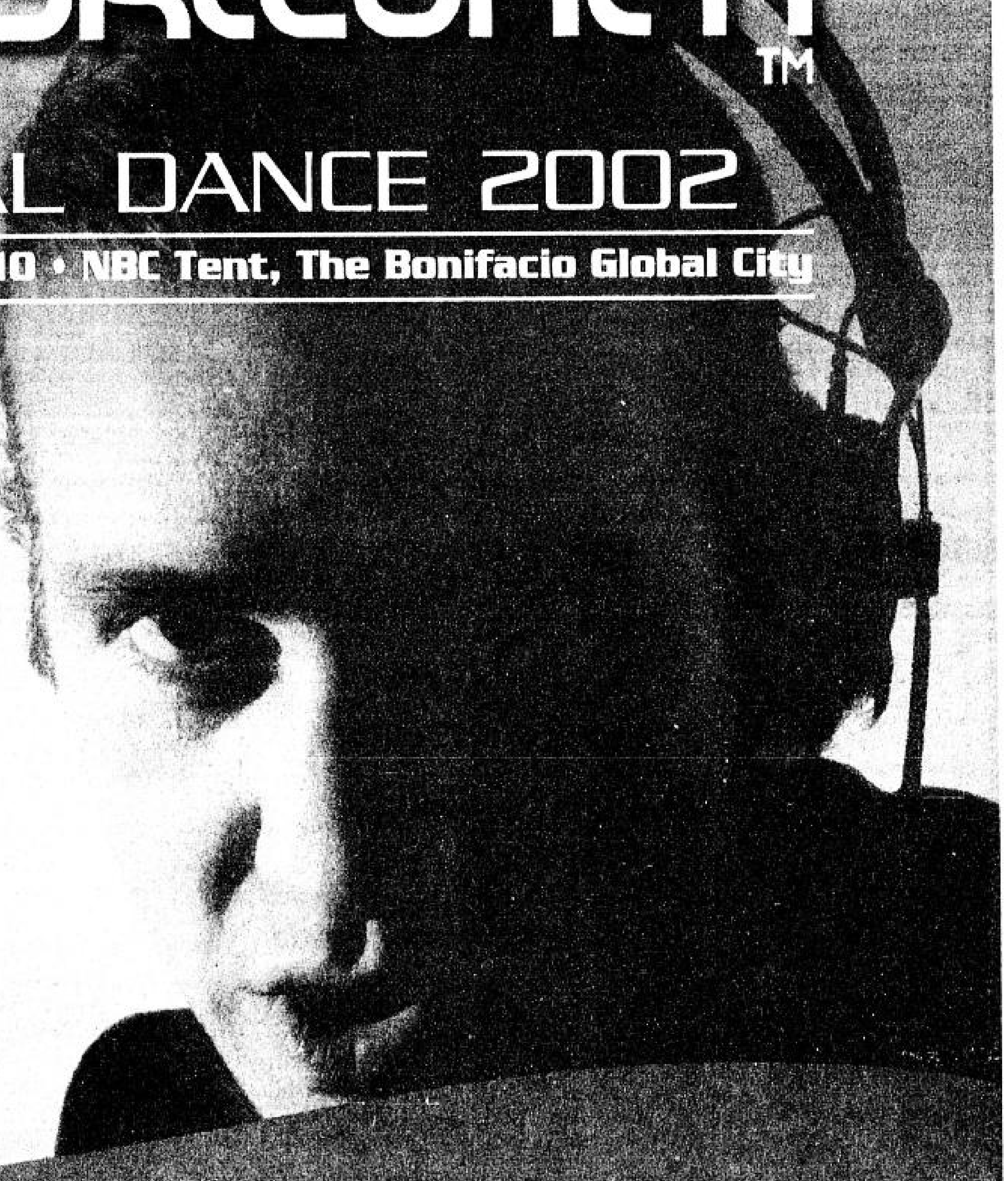

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METRO

Editor **Louie C. Camino**

DA SILVA ERIK ARAZAS

RUFFA'S EX-BF

He's been raping me since October, says 14-year-old

By Christian V. Esguerra

FORMER "That's Entertainment" star Dennis da Silva, who had been arrested thrice before for his suspected links to drug syndicates, is in trouble again.

The 14-year-old daughter of the live-in partner of Da Silva, 29, accused him of raping her on "many occasions" in their Paranaque house, police said yesterday.

When the common-law wife, 41, learned of the alleged attacks on her daughter, the woman sided with Da Silva, "mauled her daughter...and ordered her to (leave) their house," according to a report by Supt. Alfredo Buraga of the Parañaque police.

According to police, the girl said she is now six months pregnant.

Police yesterday filed rape charges

HE'S BEEN/ p. A22

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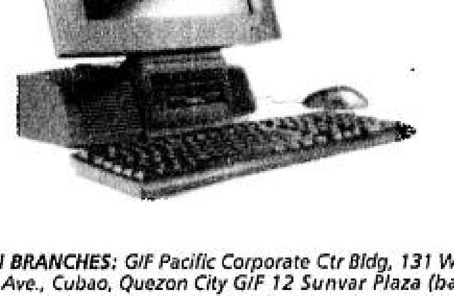
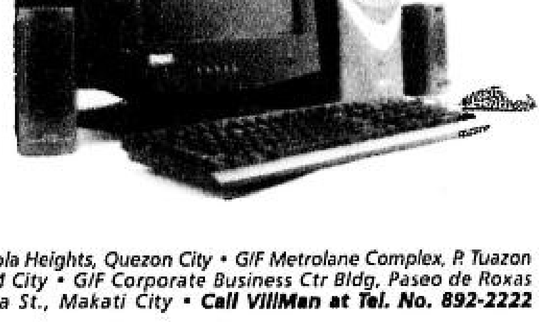




MMDA: Demolition to continue despite protests

By Leila B. Salaverria

THE DEMOLITION of buildings and other structures blocking waterways and sidewalks will continue despite opposition from urban poor groups, according to Metro Manila Development Authority Chair Bayani Fernando.

Fernando yesterday said that the MMDA has issued notices to several private establishments that built structures on waterways.

Fernando said the structures have aggravated the flood situation in the metropolis.

The MMDA is also eyeing the removal of vendors on Commonwealth Avenue in Quezon City since the agency has finished painting the marks on 50 percent of the street lanes for a new traffic scheme, he said.

MMDA Deputy Chair Cesar Lacuna said the agency has also sent a notice to the owners of the Mitsubishi building on Quezon Avenue, also in Quezon City. The building has an annex that juts into the creek beside it, he said.

Lacuna said the building owners have reclaimed a 15-meter portion of the 45-meter wide creek beside the building and built a maintenance bay on the reclaimed area.

He said the annex must be removed.

"This has blocked the flow of water," Lacuna said. "That's why Roxas District is always flooded." He said that when it rains, water rises rapidly and takes a long time to subside.

He said other private establishments in Manila are being targeted, but he did not identify them.

Fernando urged owners of private establishments to take the initiative in removing the obstructing structures instead of waiting for the government's demolition team.

"It's the middle of the flood season and we have to demolish structures at once," Fernando said. "(The owners) themselves must do this. Otherwise, if the MMDA would do it, they would be made to pay for the cost of the demolition."

He said the planned removal of private establishments that violate the rules shows that the MMDA is going after not just the informal settlers and sidewalk vendors.

The MMDA chair also denied reports that the new homes for relocated informal settlers do not exist.

"There are relocation sites," he said. "What is missing are the people to be relocated there."

The Urban Poor Association had said that 100,000 families would lose their homes when the MMDA starts its clearing operations. It also claimed that the new homes for the displaced families do not exist.

Fernando said the relocation would be good for the informal settlers because they would be getting a permanent address.

When asked about the lack of job opportunities in the relocation areas, Fernando said most informal settlers do not have jobs anyway.

"How can they be dislocated from their jobs when they don't have jobs?" he said.

The clueless Secretary of Health

ON TARGET
Ramon Tulfo

HEALTH Secretary Manuel Dayrit was reportedly upset by this corner's item about the government's laudable campaign to bring down the prices of medicines by importing cheap medicines from India.

So upset was Dayrit that he was quoted by a friend as saying: "*Sino kaya ang nagpa*-fund kay Tulfo (Who's funding Tulfo)?"

***

I'm not accusing you of anything, Mr. Secretary but it's an open secret that some Department of Health (DOH) officials, as well as officials at the Bureau of Food and Drugs (BFAD), are in the payroll of some multinational drug companies.

You probably don't know what your subordinates are doing.

Okay, you're not corrupt. But if you don't know what your subordinates are doing under your nose, then you're tanga (clueless)! Which is worse, to be corrupt or to be tanga?

***

It's highly suspicious, Mr. Secretary, that your people at the DOH, as well as BFAD, an agency under you, are preventing the importation in large quantity by the government of cheap medicines from India.

The importation is being made through the Philippine International Trading Corp., which is under the Department of Trade and Industry. The importation of cheap medicines has the blessing of President Macapagal-Arroyo.

Mr. Dayrit, why are your people at the DOH and BFAD putting a roadblock to the free flow of cheap medicines from India?

***

One doesn't have to be a rocket scientist to know the answer: Some officials at the DOH and BFAD are in the payroll of drug companies.

If I'm not mistaken, Mr. Secretary, you and BFAD Director William Torres used to be executives of United Laboratories. Unilab is adversely affected by the importation of cheap medicines.

So, is it surprising that Torres is delaying the approval for the distribution of cheap medicines in the market? By the time most of these medicines are released, they are already expired.

***

The government is importing cheap basic medicines from India-such as those to treat infections, high blood pressure, heart condition, diarrhea, and asthma and pain relievers-to make them available to poor patients. The same medicines are very expensive in the country.

Putting cheap medicines within the reach of the masses is one way of fighting poverty.

If the market is flooded with cheap but potent medicines in the market, multinational drug firms in the country will be forced to bring down the cost of their products in order to become competitive.

That's the rationale behind the government's importation of cheap medicines.

***

People who dine out should not bring big amounts of money with them or wear expensive jewelry. If possible, they should avoid Chinese restaurants in Quezon City and San Juan.

A number of Chinese restaurants in Quezon City and San Juan have been held up the past couple of days. Customers in these restaurants were divested of cash, jewelry and cellular phones.

The holdup men entered the restaurants as customers. Most of the ill-fated restaurants were full when the robbers struck.

***

Since Interior Secretary Joey Lina has relieved police commanders who could not stop illegal gambling in their areas, why doesn't he extend that practice to hard crime, like holdups?

Lina sacked police chiefs after police units not under them, such as Task Force Jericho, raided jueteng joints three times with positive results. Lina calls it "strike three."

So, if an area has been struck by bank robbers, kidnappers, or restaurant holdup men three times, the police chief in that area should be relieved.

***

Sacking the police chief in an area where robbers and other criminals have victimized citizens for a certain number of times makes sense. It means that the police chief in that area is sleeping on his job.

The threat of being sacked for inefficiency will keep police chiefs in all towns and cities on their toes.

There is no other way.

***

President Macapagal-Arroyo is spirited defense of Internal Revenue Commissioner Rene Banez from his critics was a wrong move.

Critics have accused Banez of helping a business conglomerate defraud the government of billions of pesos by putting a very low value on an expensive piece of real estate to avoid payment of the right taxes.

What the President could have done in reaction to the accusation of alleged wrongdoing by Banez was to say that she would have it investigated.

A lot of people think-wrongly, I hope-that the President is coddling a corrupt official. Even if Banez is not corrupt, the public perception is that the BIR, which he heads, is one of the most graft-ridden government agencies.

Fernando: Casuals will have to go

By Leila B. Salaverria

SOME OF the casual and job-order employees of the Metro Manila Development Authority will definitely lose their jobs, according to MMDA Chair Bayani Fernando.

Some MMDA workers would not be reappointed after a review of their performance is made, Fernando said.

"The evaluation was made to remove those who do not deserve to be reappointed," he said. "Some employees have to go. Don't tell me that out of the 2,000 non-permanent employees, there is no one who is not performing well."

The MMDA chair also said the non-performing employees have been affecting those who were doing their jobs.

"They cause inequities," Fernando said in his news conference yesterday.

About 2,000 non-permanent employees of the MMDA have expressed dismay over Fernando's decision to appoint them only up to July 31 pending a review of their performances.

The employees, some of whom have been with the MMDA for over 10 years, said they have been emotionally distressed over their status.

They said they continue reporting for work but are worried that they would not be paid.

Fernando on Friday had assured the employees that they would be properly compensated for services rendered.

Yesterday, he also said the MMDA has not finished the evaluation of the employees' performances because the agency is making sure it would be done carefully.

MMDA has 1,028 casual employees and 729 job-order employees.

Casual employees are those who have benefits similar to permanent employees but are paid on a rate basis and work for a specified length of time. Job-order employees do not get paid if they do not report for work, and they enjoy no benefits.

Nissan Diesel's Japanese boss found dead in condo

By Leila B. Salaverria

THE JAPANESE president of Nissan Diesel, a company that manufactures buses and heavy machinery, was found dead in his Makati City condominium unit early yesterday morning.

Police believe Maroto Hisano, 58, and a native of Fukuoka, died of natural causes.

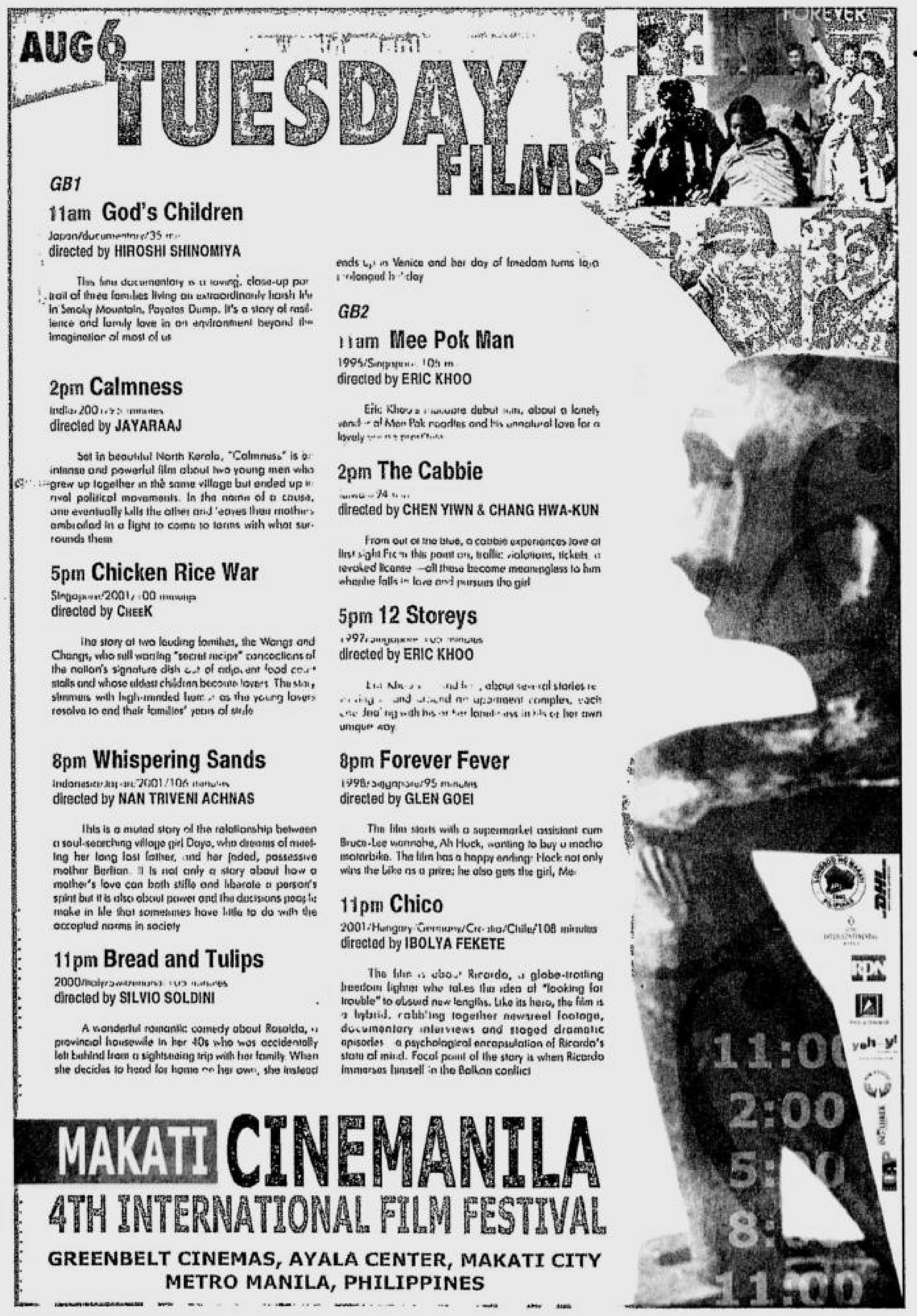
The executive's maid, Myrna Capilitan, found the body of Hisano in the master bedroom of his unit at the Cosmopolitan Tower on Valero Street in Salcedo Village, according to PO2 Juvenal Barbosa.

Capilitan had gone to Hisano's room to wake him up to go to work, but the Japanese failed to awaken. She said Hisano was already asleep when she arrived from her day-off on Sunday night.

Hisano was brought to the Makati Medical Center. Barbosa said the body bore no signs of physical injuries.

When Hisano was found, he was covered up to his waist with a blanket and was wearing a T-shirt, shorts and a surgical mask.

Police said it was Hisano's habit to wear a surgical mask, especially when travelling, as a protection against pollution.


FOREVER
11:00
2:00
5:00
8:00
11:00
DHL
yehey!

AUG 6
TUESDAY FILMS

GB1

11am God's Children
Japan/documentary/35 [illegible]
directed by HIROSHI SHINOMIYA

This fine documentary is a loving, close-up portrait of three families living an extraordinarily harsh life in Smoky Mountain, Payatas Dump. It's a story of resilience and family love in an environment beyond the imagination of most of us

2pm Calmness
India/200[illegible] minutes
directed by JAYARAAJ

Set in beautiful North Kerala, "Calmness" is an intense and powerful film about two young men who grew up together in the same village but ended up in rival political movements. In the name of a cause, one eventually kills the other and leaves their mothers embroiled in a fight to come to terms with what surrounds them

5pm Chicken Rice War
Singapore/2001/[illegible]00 minutes
directed by CheeK

The story of two feuding families, the Wongs and Changs, who sell warring "secret recipe" concoctions of the nation's signature dish out of adjacent food court stalls and whose eldest children become lovers. The story simmers with high-minded humor as the young lovers resolve to end their families' years of strife

8pm Whispering Sands
Indonesia/Japan/2001/106 minutes
directed by NAN TRIVENI ACHNAS

This is a muted story of the relationship between a soul-searching village girl Daya, who dreams of meeting her long lost father, and her jaded, possessive mother Berlian. It is not only a story about how a mother's love can both stifle and liberate a person's spirit but it is also about power and the decisions people make in life that sometimes have little to do with the accepted norms in society

11pm Bread and Tulips
2000/Italy/Switzerland/[illegible] minutes
directed by SILVIO SOLDINI

A wonderful romantic comedy about Rosalda, a provincial housewife in her 40s who was accidentally left behind from a sightseeing trip with her family. When she decides to head for home on her own, she instead ends up in Venice and her day of freedom turns to a prolonged holiday

GB2

11am Mee Pok Man
1995/Singapore/105 m[illegible]
directed by ERIC KHOO

Eric Khoo's macabre debut film, about a lonely vendor of Mee Pok noodles and his unnatural love for a lovely [illegible]

2pm The Cabbie
[illegible]/74 [illegible]
directed by CHEN YIWN & CHANG HWA-KUN

From out of the blue, a cabbie experiences love at first sight. From this point on, traffic violations, tickets, a revoked license —all these become meaningless to him when he falls in love and pursues the girl

5pm 12 Storeys
1997/Singapore/[illegible] minutes
directed by ERIC KHOO

Eric Khoo's [illegible] film, about several stories [illegible] and around an apartment complex, each one dealing with his or her loneliness in his or her own unique way

8pm Forever Fever
1998/Singapore/95 minutes
directed by GLEN GOEI

The film starts with a supermarket assistant cum Bruce-Lee wannabe, Ah Hock, wanting to buy a macho motorbike. The film has a happy ending: Hock not only wins the bike as a prize; he also gets the girl, Me[illegible]

11pm Chico
2001/Hungary/Germany/Croatia/Chile/108 minutes
directed by IBOLYA FEKETE

The film is about Ricardo, a globe-trotting freedom fighter who takes the idea of "looking for trouble" to absurd new lengths. Like its hero, the film is a hybrid, cobbling together newsreel footage, documentary interviews and staged dramatic episodes - a psychological encapsulation of Ricardo's state of mind. Focal point of the story is when Ricardo immerses himself in the Balkan conflict

MAKATI CINEMANILA
4TH INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL
GREENBELT CINEMAS, AYALA CENTER, MAKATI CITY
METRO MANILA, PHILIPPINES

Judge robbed of P1M

By Alcuin Papa

A TRIAL court judge lost some P1 million in jewelry to robbers who broke into her Quezon City home on Sunday.

Police said the house of Judge Adoracion Angeles in Barangay Bungad was robbed between 5:30 p.m. on Aug. 3 and midnight on Aug. 4.

Angeles, formerly of the Quezon City Regional Trial Court, is now assigned to Caloocan courts.

Police said the burglars destroyed the iron grills of her gate then pried open one of the glass windows of the house.

The robbers took about P1 million worth of jewelry and the judge's .22 caliber pistol from the master bedroom on the second floor of the house, police said.

Angeles told police that she and members of her family were out of town when the burglary happened.

Investigators of the Central Police District were working on the case.

Two weeks ago, robbers had also broken into the house of Quezon City Regional Trial Court Judge Percival Lopez in Cubao.

Aga brother's car burned

By Alcuin Papa

THE CAR of the younger brother of movie actor Aga Muhlach was set on fire early yesterday morning in Quezon City by a man suspected to be harboring a grudge against Muhlach.

Albert Muhlach, 30, a business partner of Destiny Cable and a resident of Barangay Immaculate Conception, Quezon City, went to the Kamuning police station to file a complaint against Diomecillo Padua, 26, also of Barangay Immaculate Conception.

At about 3 a.m., Padua lighted a fire inside Muhlach's Toyota Camry (WYN-717) which was parked in front of Muhlach's house, the actor's brother said. Muhlach said he woke up after a neighbor started screaming because of the burning car.

Padua is now detained at the police station and is facing charges of malicious mischief.

Muhlach said the suspect was believed drunk and high on drugs when he set the car on fire.

He did not know why the suspect would vandalize his car, Muhlach added.

Investigators were still trying to determine how Padua managed to open Muhlach's car. They theorized that the suspect held a grudge against Muhlach for a still undetermined reason.

He's been raping . . .

From p. A21

against Da Silva.

Da Silva's common-law wife was named an accessory to the supposed crime, police said.

The couple refused to comment but radio reports quoted the woman as saying that Da Silva could not have raped the girl.

The woman said Da Silva and her daughter had a relationship, according to the radio reports.

Da Silva, who was last arrested in Pasig City in 1995 for his alleged drug connections, was again arrested in his house in San Antonio Valley 5, Parañaque on Sunday night. The 14-year-old's 21-year-old sister complained that Da Silva berated the younger girl when she asked him for money, said prosecutor Oliver Hernandez.

Da Silva, who wears body tattoos, was allegedly drunk.

"He always created trouble whenever he was drunk," Concepcion Ababat of Barangay San Antonio told the Inquirer.

The city police chief, Ruben Catabona, invited Da Silva and the 14-year-old to the police headquarters, where the girl told police that the former actor had been raping her since October last year.

She said Da Silva first raped her in Antipolo, according to prosecutor Hernandez.

The girl is now in the custody of the Department of Social Welfare and Development.

The prosecutor's office was studying the criminal complaint to determine if the couple would continue to be kept at the city jail.

Da Silva, who had a brief movie career, is also known as a former boyfriend of actress Ruffa Gutierrez.

For sreening times, call 729-7777.
Schedules are subject to change without prior notice.

AYALA CINEMAS NOW SHOWING

G1 GLORIETTA 1

1	WINDTALKERS
2	STUART LITTLE 2
3	PAKISABI NA LANG MAHAL KO SIYA
	ANG GALING GALING MO BABES

G4 GLORIETTA 4

1	MEN IN BLACK 2
2	WINDTALKERS
3	WINDTALKERS 11:30, 2:15, 5:00, 7:45, 10:30
4	MEGIDDO
5	SORORITY BOYS
6	STUART LITTLE 2
	ANG GALING GALING MO BABES

GB1 GREENBELT 1

1	MAKATI CINEMANILA 2002
	MAKATI CINEMANILA 2002
	RICO J. PUNO IN SOMETHING WONDERFUL AUG. 16 - 9:00 PM

GB3 GREENBELT 3

1	STUART LITTLE 2 12:20, 2:10, 4:00, 5:50, 7:40, 9:30, 11:20
2	WINDTALKERS 12:20, 3:05, 5:50, 8:35, 11:20
3	AMELIE 1:00, 3:35, 6:10, 8:45, 11:20
	MEN IN BLACK 2 11:20, 1:20, 3:20, 5:20, 7:20, 9:20, 11:20
5	SORORITY BOYS 11:20, 1:20, 3:20, 5:20, 7:20, 9:20, 11:20

ATC ALABANG TOWN CENTER

1	WINDTALKERS
2	WINDTALKERS
3	STUART LITTLE 2
	ANG GALING GALING MO BABES
5	MEN IN BLACK 2

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3 (DTS)	WINDTALKERS
4 GOLD (DTS)	WINDTALKERS
5 GOLD (DOLBY)	STUART LITTLE 2
6 GOLD (SDDS)	SORORITY BOYS
7 GOLD (DOLBY)	WINDTALKERS
8	GALING MO BABES
9	PAKISABI NA LANG .
10	MEGIDDO

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4	
5	
6 (DTS)	
Golden Pearl THX	

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3	GALING MO BABES

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5	GALING MO BABES

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2	HIYAS
3	GALING MO BABES
4	PAKISABI NA LANG .
5	STUART LITTLE 2
6	WINDTALKERS
7	
8	

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(Makati City) TEL. 751-2010 TO 13

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3	

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A	

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2	KILABOT AT KEMBOT
3	
4	

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2	
3	
4	MEN IN BLACK 2
5	PAKISABI NA LANG . . .
6	GALING MO BABES
7 (DTS)	WINDTALKERS
8 (SDDS)	STUART LITTLE 2
9 (DOLBY)	SORORITY BOYS

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6 (DOLBY)	STUART LITTLE 2
7 (DTS)	WINDTALKERS
8	RESERVE
9	RESERVE

Gotesco Commonwealth
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2	
3	
4	GALING MO BABES
5 (SDDS)	STUART LITTLE 2
6	WINDTALKERS
7 (DOLBY)	WINDTALKERS
8	PAKISABI NA LANG

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3 (DTS)	WINDTALKERS
4	PAKISABI NA LANG . .
5 (SDDS)	WINDTALKERS

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3	WINDTALKERS

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3	

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3	STUART LITTLE 2
4	PAKISABI NA LANG . . .
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2	

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2	GALING MO BABES

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1	
2	

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2	GALING MO BABES
3 (DTS)	STUART LITTLE 2

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3 (DOLBY)	WINDTALKERS
4	STUART LITTLE 2

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4	GALING MO BABES

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4	

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Olivarez Los Baños
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2	STUART LITTLE 2
3	PAKISABI NA LANG .

Olivarez Tagaytay
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2	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
3	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION

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2 (DTS)	RESERVE

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1	DOG SOLDIERS
2	WINDTALKERS
3	PAKISABI NA LANG . .
4	DRAGONFLY

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3 (DTS)	WINDTALKERS
4	DOG SOLDIERS

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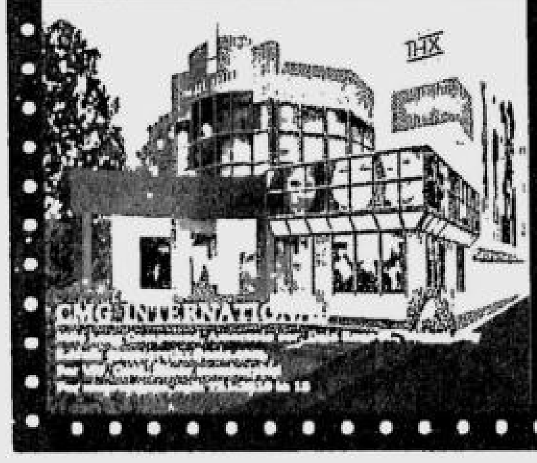

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1	GALING MO BABES
2	MEN IN BLACK 2
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8	SORORITY BOYS
9	DOG SOLDIERS
10	MINORITY REPORT
11	MAGENTA
12	GALING MO BABES

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1	MEGIDDO
2	WINDTALKERS
3	THIRD WHEEL
4	STUART LITTLE 2
5	MEN IN BLACK 2
6	WINDTALKERS
7	SORORITY BOYS
8	MINORITY REPORT
9	GALING MO BABES
10	HIGH CRIMES
11	DOG SOLDIERS
12	PAKI SABI NA LANG . . .

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1	HIGH CRIMES
2	SORORITY BOYS
3	THIRD WHEEL
4	WINDTALKERS
5	WINDTALKERS
6	MINORITY REPORT
7	MEN IN BLACK 2
8	DOG SOLDIERS
9	GALING MO BABES
10	STUART LITTLE 2
11	PAKISABI NA LANG . . .
12	MEGIDDO

SM CITY NORTH EDSA
9295452

1	MEGIDDO
2	SORORITY BOYS
3	GALING MO BABES
4	PAKISABI NA LANG . . .
5	GALING MO BABES
6	STUART LITTLE 2
7	WINDTALKERS
8	MEN IN BLACK 2

SM SOUTHMALL
8066888

1	SORORITY BOYS
2	DOG SOLDIERS
3	WINDTALKERS
4	STUART LITTLE 2
5	MINORITY REPORT
6	WINDTALKERS
7	GALING MO BABES
8	MEN IN BLACK 2
9	MEGIDDO
10	PAKISABI NA LANG . . .

SM CITY CEBU
2313876

1	WINDTALKERS
2	WINDTALKERS
3	A WALK TO REMEMBER
4	JUST VISITING
5	PAKISABI NA LANG . . .
6	MEN IN BLACK 2
7	GALING MO BABES
8	CROSSROADS

SM CITY ILOILO
3209422

1	SUGAT
2	CLOSED
3	A WALK TO REMEMBER
4	WINDTALKERS
5	PAKISABI NA LANG . . .
6	MEN IN BLACK 2
7	CLOSED
8	WINDTALKERS

SM CITY PAMPANGA
7128015

1	GALING MO BABES
2	WINDTALKERS
3	DOG SOLDIERS
4	MEN IN BLACK 2
5	PAKI SABI NA LANG . . .
6	STUART LITTLE 2

SM SUPER CTR. SUCAT
8294975

1	GALING MO BABES
2	WINDTALKERS
3	STUART LITTLE 2
4	MEGIDDO

SM CINEMA TUTUBAN
2514302

1	WINDTALKERS
2	GALING MO BABES
3	PAKISABI NA LANG . . .
4	STUART LITTLE 2

SM CITY DAVAO
2976998

1	WINDTALKERS
2	PAKISABI NA LANG . . .
3	THIRD WHEEL
4	SLACKERS
5	WINDTALKERS
6	MEN IN BLACK 2

SM BICUTAN

1
2
3
4

SOON TO OPEN!
4 NEW
STATE-OF-THE-ART
VISION & SOUND

SM CITY CAGAYAN DE ORO

1
2
3
4

SOON TO OPEN!
4 NEW
STATE-OF-THE-ART
VISION & SOUND

THE PODIUM CINEMA
18 ADB Avenue, Ortigas Center, Mandaluyong City
6389781-85 loc 120

1 **WINDTALKERS**
11:30 FS / 12:00 MF / 2:45 / 5:30 / 8:15 / 10:30 LFS / 11:00 LMF / 1:15 END

2 **STUART LITTLE 2**
11:30 FS / 12:00 MF / 1:50 / 3:40 / 5:30 / 7:20 / 9:10 / 10:30 LFS / 11:00 LMF / 12:20 END

LATE NIGHT SCREENING DURING FRIDAYS AND SATURDAYS
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Movies are subject to change without prior notice

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Galleria 632-9115-16 633-7641 loc. 279

1 THX	WINDTALKERS
2	WINDTALKERS
3	SORORITY BOYS
4	MEN IN BLACK 2
5	STUART LITTLE 2
6	WINDTALKERS
7	MEGIDDO
8	STUART LITTLE 2
9	PAKISABI NA LANG . . .
10	GALING MO BABES

Ermita 536-7809-12

1	WINDTALKERS
2	MEN IN BLACK 2
3	PAKISABI NA LANG . . .
4	SORORITY BOYS
5	GALING MO BABES
6	STUART LITTLE 2
7	MEGIDDO

Metro East - Marcos hway 682-8193 / 8780

1	MEN IN BLACK 2
2	WINDTALKERS
3	MEGIDDO
4	STUART LITTLE 2
5	GALING MO BABES
6	PAKISABI NA LANG . . .
7	WINDTALKERS
8	SORORITY BOYS

Novaliches 935-3229-30

1	WINDTALKERS
2	WINDTALKERS
3	PAKISABI NA LANG . . .
4	SORORITY BOYS
5	STUART LITTLE 2
6	MEN IN BLACK 2
7	GALING MO BABES
8	MEGIDDO

Imus 471-8188 / 875-3838

1	WINDTALKERS
2	PAKISABI NA LANG . . .
3	MEGIDDO
4	STUART LITTLE 2
5	MEN IN BLACK 2
6	GALING MO BABES

Bacolod 441-0453 / 0459

1	WINDTALKERS
2	LEGEND OF TITANIC
3	A WALK TO REMEMBER
4	MEN IN BLACK 2
5	SORORITY BOYS
6	KAPALIT

Iloilo 336-8077-78

1	WINDTALKERS
2	LIFE OR SOMETHING LIKE IT
3	A WALK TO REMEMBER
4	PAKISABI NA LANG . . .
5	MEN IN BLACK 2
6	WINDTALKERS

Star Mills- Sn Fernando, Pamp 875-1927 961-5318 / 5270

1	PAKISABI NA LANG
2	WINDTALKERS
3	GALING MO BABES
4	STUART LITTLE 2
5	MEN IN BLACK 2
6	RESERVED

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KitKat

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http://www.robinsonsmovieworld.com
call-a-movie 536-7812

MOVIES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE.

Talent management outfit adopts corporate setup

LGT are the initials of Lyn S.G. Tamayo, who started her career in entertainment as a dancer and is now better known as the talent manager of such show biz stars as KC Montero, Lester J. Calma (formerly model-actor Toffee Calma) and upcoming commercial model Geoffrey Briz.

Today, LGT is a company known by the name of LeGiT Entertainment, still with an emphasis on Lyn's initials. Her partners decided to add the vowels since clients kept forgetting to pronounce their corporate name properly.

"The original idea was to have my initials sound like le?git," Lyn explains. "Now the corporate name is all spelled out which is something that more or less reflects the company's whole philosophy when it comes to dealing with talents."

Lyn and her partner Candy Ramos pride themselves on not being the kind of managers who "dictate" to their talents. Everything is done in consultation with the artist. Even when it comes to the talents' personal lives, Lyn and Candy let them decide what to do.

"When there are personal issues involved, I get affected, but never involved," says Lyn. "There's a difference. If I get involved in their personal lives, somehow, mapapabayaan ang career. What I do is just give them tips on how to handle certain situations.

"When it comes to bookings, I also tell them everything, even how much the talent fee is. As a manager, I believe in transparency. Dapat, masaya lahat, hindi lang ako. Para ganahan ang mga talents."

Aside from talent management, LeGiT Entertainment is also into events. The outfit produces and mounts events ranging from concerts to fashion shows to product launches. It also supplies talents for TV commercials.

LeGiT's newest talent, Filipino?Australian model Geoffrey Briz, is one of the towel?clad men in the new Rexona "boybana" TV commercial. Although it is a new field for the partners, talent management has grown such that it now comprises about 60 percent of their business. The rest is taken up by events, marketing, video production and related projects.

While managing three active talents is already enough of a challenge, Lyn and Candy say that they intend to expand the business should the opportunity present itself. "Actually, getting into talent management was just a burst of inspiration when we met KC in 1998," says Candy, who is in charge of setting directions and mapping out strategy for LeGiT.

"Then we became very busy with him, and more and more, we saw how important a manager is to an artistic career."

LeGiT Entertainment is at the Marvi Center, 23 Panay Avenue, near corner Roces Avenue, Quezon City.

LYN Tamayo with her talents (from left) Lester J. Calma, Geoffrey Briz and KC Montero.

Ghost story on video

C-INTERACTIVE Digital Entertainment releases "St. Francisville Experiment," a true ghost story about a prominent family in New Orleans.

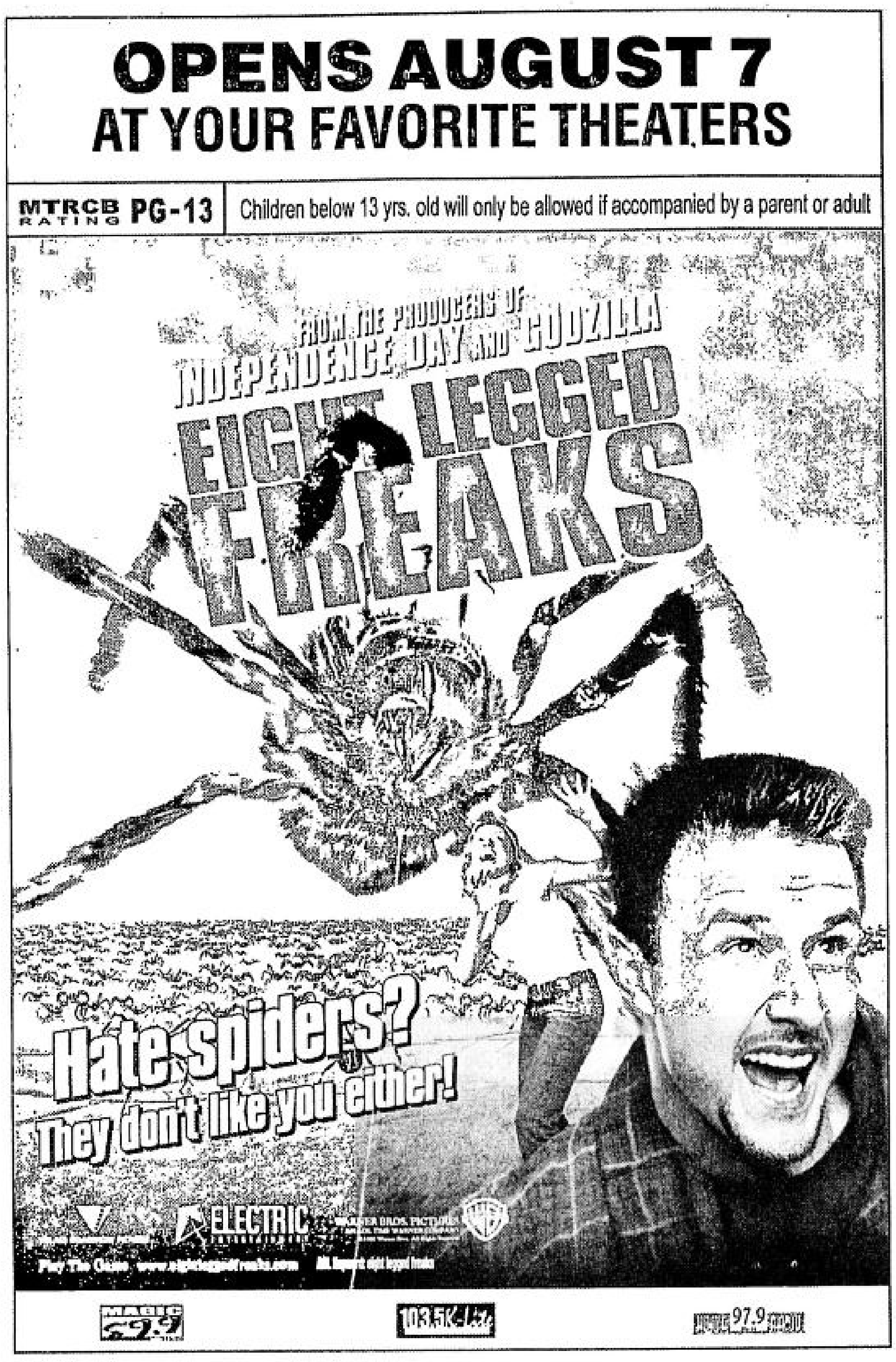
In 1832, the Lalauries were renowned for abusing and torturing their slaves. The true extent of what Madame and Doctor Lalaurie did wasn't known until their house was caught on fire.

The authorities discover dozens of multilated, dismembered and otherwise tortured slaves in various states of hideous death. The lurid tales of victims screaming in agonizing pain live on.

The film follows the investigation of four people -- a psychic, a ghost hunter, a film student and a historian. Their mission is to prove or disprove whether or not the tales about the Lalauries were true.

"St. Francisville Experiment" is now available in original VHS and VCD format.

For inquiries, call C-Interactive at 245-5011 to 12.



OPENS AUGUST 7
AT YOUR FAVORITE THEATERS
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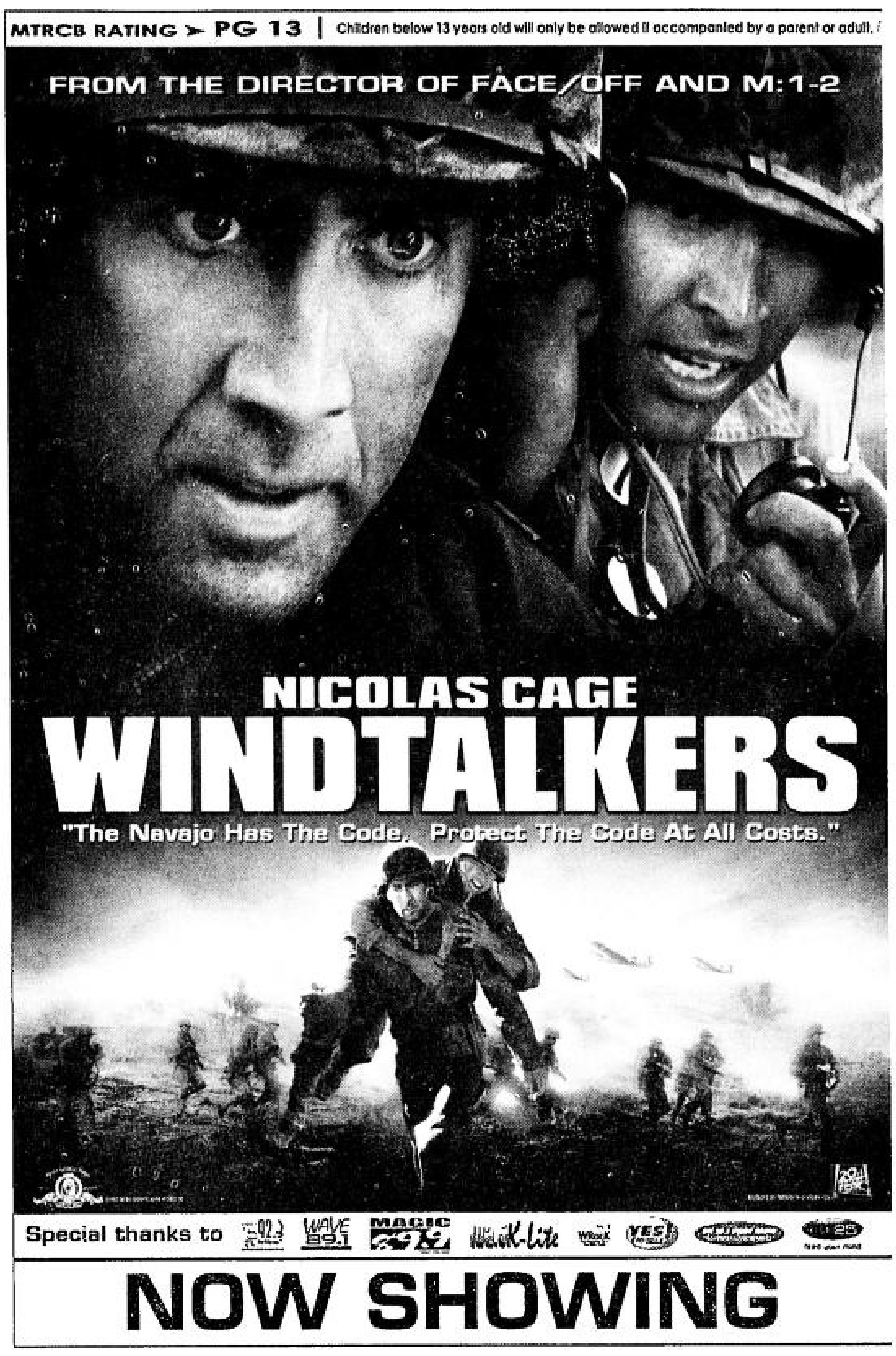
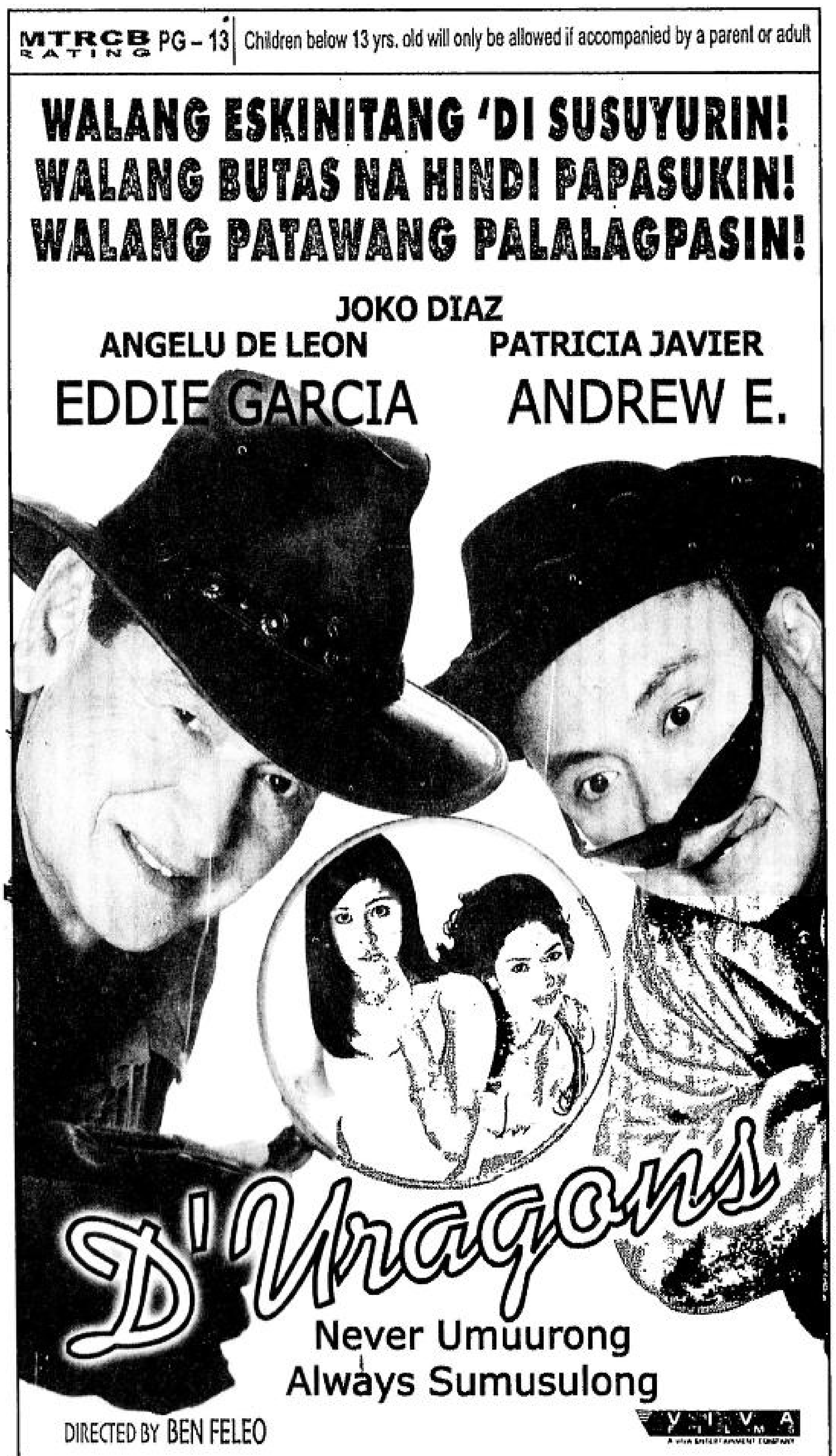
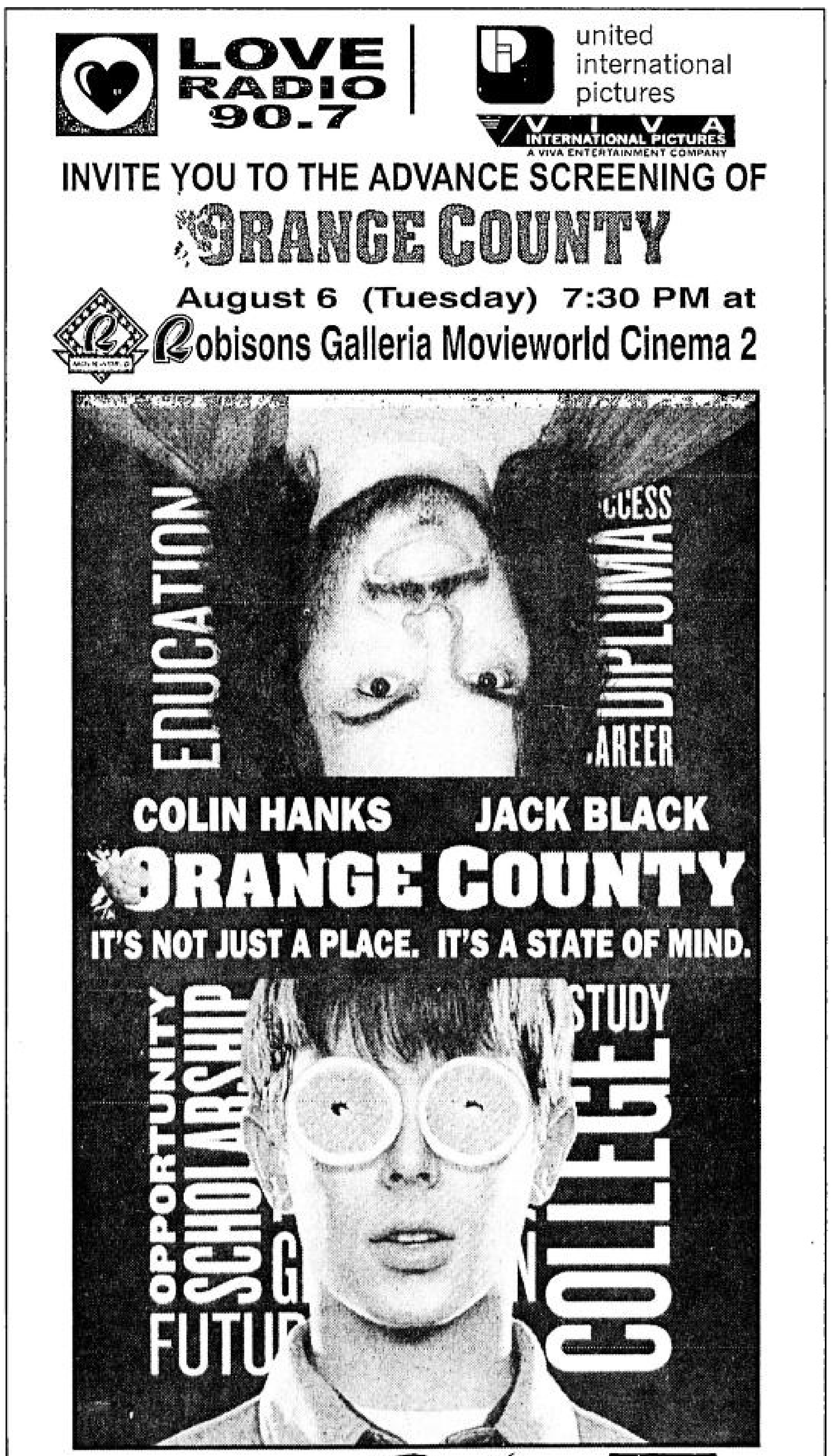
FROM THE PRODUCERS OF INDEPENDENCE DAY AND GODZILLA
EIGHT LEGGED FREAKS
Hate spiders? They don't like you either!
ELECTRIC ENTERTAINMENT
WARNER BROS. PICTURES
MAGIC 89.9
103.5K-Lite
97.9



MTRCB RATING ➤ PG 13 | Children below 13 years old will only be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult.
FROM THE DIRECTOR OF FACE/OFF AND M:1-2
NICOLAS CAGE
WINDTALKERS
"The Navajo Has The Code. Protect The Code At All Costs."
Special thanks to 92.3 WAVE 89.1 MAGIC 89.9 WaveK-Lite YES
NOW SHOWING



MTRCB RATING PG-13 Children below 13 yrs. old will only be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult
WALANG ESKINITANG 'DI SUSUYURIN!
WALANG BUTAS NA HINDI PAPASUKIN!
WALANG PATAWANG PALALAGPASIN!
JOKO DIAZ
ANGELU DE LEON PATRICIA JAVIER
EDDIE GARCIA ANDREW E.
D' Dragons
Never Umuurong
Always Sumusulong
DIRECTED BY BEN FELEO
VIVA
A VIVA ENTERTAINMENT COMPANY
IPINAGMAMALAKI NILA MANOY AT GAMOL
GRAND OPENING TOMORROW!



LOVE RADIO 90.7
united international pictures
VIVA INTERNATIONAL PICTURES
A VIVA ENTERTAINMENT COMPANY
INVITE YOU TO THE ADVANCE SCREENING OF
ORANGE COUNTY
August 6 (Tuesday) 7:30 PM at
Robisons Galleria Movieworld Cinema 2
EDUCATION SUCCESS DIPLOMA CAREER
COLIN HANKS JACK BLACK
ORANGE COUNTY
IT'S NOT JUST A PLACE. IT'S A STATE OF MIND.
OPPORTUNITY SCHOLARSHIP FUTURE STUDY COLLEGE
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Easy technology. Easily in touch.

'Rockin' Revival' tonight at Dish

SHOWS

RELIVE the heyday of the '50s and '60s with Rockin' Revival and their slew of classic rock n' roll tunes from music icons such as the Beatles, Beach Boys, Chuck Berry, Jerry Lee Lewis and Rolling Stones, plus all-time hits from James Taylor, Lettermen, Bee Gees, Doobie Brothers, Cliff Richards and Chicago.

Known as one of the country's pioneers in revival music, Rockin Revival continues to enthrall audiences with their exhilarating music and fiery performances featuring seasoned musicians–Butch Sabater on keyboards and synthesizers, Percy Benitez on drums, Boy Mendez on percussions and lead vocals, Tony Huelves on guitar, Roy Reyes on bass, Cathy Castaneda on keyboards and vocals and musical director Sonny Nicolas–also known during his college days in La Salle as the Jose Feliciano of the Philippines.

Catch the group perform on Wednesday, Aug. 7 and 21 at Dish at the Power Plant Mall and on Fridays at Le Boulevardier of Hotel Inter-Continental Manila.

For Rockin' Revival booking inquiries, call Yoli Celdran at 725?2514 or 727?4367.

VALDES. One-night concert at Onstage in Greenbelt.

'Mitch Valdes Rocks!'

EXPECT an evening loaded with humor and songs in the one-night concert, "Mitch Valdes Rocks!," 9 p.m. on Aug. 29 at Onstage Greenbelt, Makati City.

Catch Mitch as she charms live audiences in an intimate venue, with her vignettes of jokes, signature antics and vocal prowess.

Joining her onstage are some of the country's finest musicians, under the musical direction of Mel Villena. Cocoy Jimehez directs.

Filipino critics have distinguished Mitch as incomparable multi-talented artist, having been an acclaimed theater and movie artist, comedian and renowned singer for years.

Tickets at P600 and P800 are now available at all Ticket World outlets in major National Bookstore branches, Robinson's Department Store (Malate and Galleria), Tower Records (Makati and Alabang), Music Museum (Virra Mall, Greenhills), Ayala Center Glorietta 1 ticket booth cinema lobby, Onstage Greenbelt ticketron and online at www.ticketworld.com.ph.

For ticket inquiries and reservations call Ticket World at 891-5610.

SuperwoMom, the gift I was born with

DOLLY WOOD

Dolly Ann Carvajal

I KNOW that my mom would rather not make a big deal of the "ordeal" she went through in the past months. After all, she has always been the one in charge and it's so out of character for her to weaken.

I want to share with all her "loyalists" the strength I imbibed from my mom during this recent crisis. I know many reports have been told about her condition and she had also written her story in her Inquirer column, but there are things that only a daughter can see and feel.

When my doctor cousin minced no words in telling me that my mom could pass away if she was not operated on immediately, I was incapacitated. Just the thought of losing her is worse than all the pain, self-induced and otherwise, I've ever experienced.

I bargained with God to please extend my mom's life so I can have a chance to "spoil" her even just half as much as she has pampered me and the rest of the clan.

The first time I visited my mom in the hospital, I wanted to break down, but seeing how cheerful and strong she was made me ashamed of myself. How could I possibly underestimate my mom's being superwoman?

Her reservoir of resilience is indeed bottomless, and so is her heart. Even at her weakest moment she remained my major source of strength.

While the rest of the family and her close friends were wrapped up in their worries about my mom, I instinctively knew the first moment I saw her in the hospital that she was going to make it through.

THE AUTHOR with mom Inday Badiday, children IC and Bianchie, and Inday's daughter Klang-Klang.

As she always says, I am her extension, so in a somewhat mystical way I feel what she feels and vice versa. I don't have to fuss over her and tell her every single minute that I'm worthless without her.

More than watching over her I know that the best tranquilizer I can give my mom is to keep trying to be the kind of mom she is to me. As I go about the daily grind of being a mom (and dad) to my two kids, I carry with me all the lessons of motherhood that my mom taught me not by words but by example.

I may never have her superhuman abilities but that won't stop me from striving. That's the least I could do to show her that all the heartaches I've unintentionally caused her are not in vain after all.

My mom and I had our share of disagreements and squabbles. That only goes to prove how our being so much alike can make us clash at times. We are both intense women so coming together can be an explosion. All those quarrels may have been wrong but they make our bond real.

My mom I may not understand right away why we do the things we do sometimes, but in the long run we respect each other's decisions and choices knowing fully well that our deep connection will keep us on the right path no matter how many detours we have to take first.

The road going away is the same road that leads back home.

To all my mom's avid followers and concerned friends, I cannot thank you enough for helping us endure the unendurable. But the worst is over. And take it from me who knows "Inday Badiday" inside out, she's come a long way and she's still got a long long way to go!

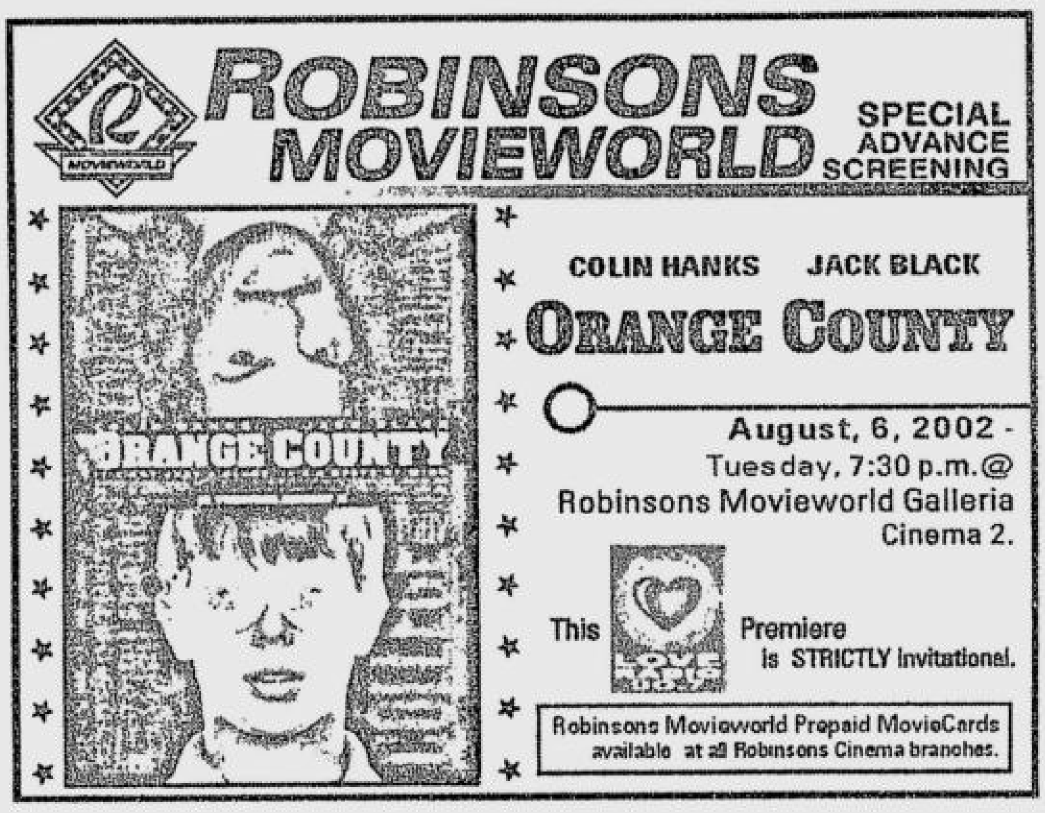
That brings to mind the village simpleton Inda Badiday, who inspired my mom's screen name; my grandmother Lala just added "y" to the first word. Inda almost killed my mom when she was a kid by giving her goat's milk to which she's allergic, but my mom survived.

Even at such a young age she was destined to thrive under pressure.

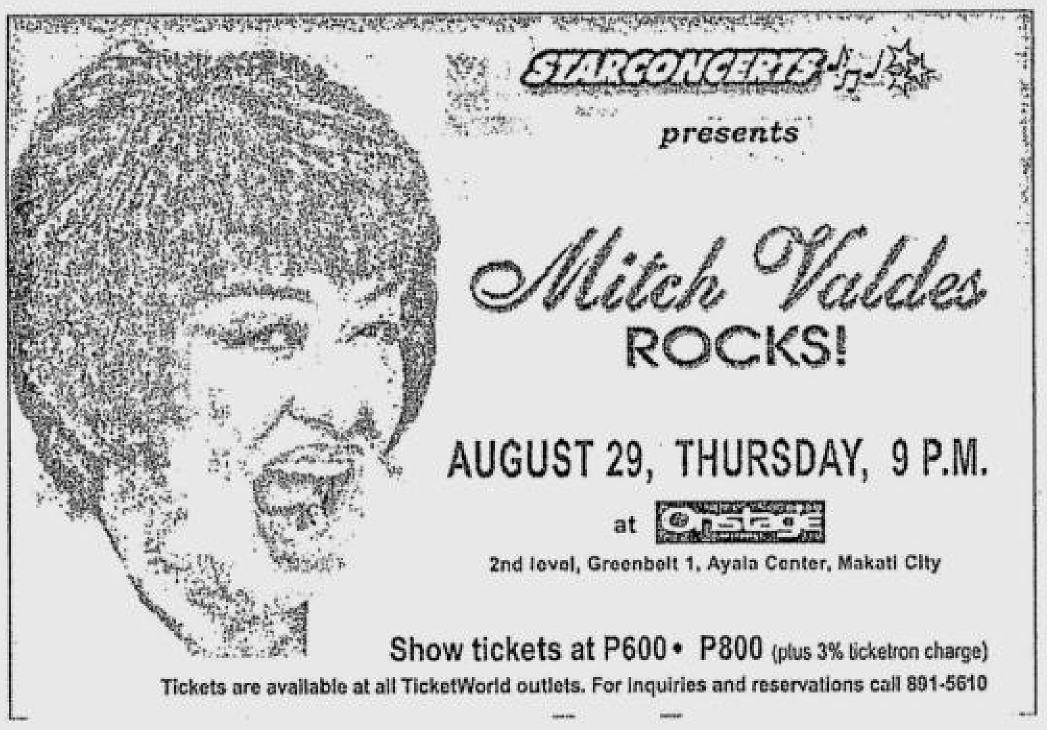
A superwoMom like her will definitely outlive us all.

Saranghamneda, Mom! Happy birthday to the gift I was born with!

For feedback, e-mail friends_at_dsquare@yahoo.com



ROBINSONS MOVIEWORLD
SPECIAL ADVANCE SCREENING
COLIN HANKS JACK BLACK
ORANGE COUNTY
August, 6, 2002 - Tuesday, 7:30 p.m.@ Robinsons Movieworld Galleria Cinema 2.
This Premiere is STRICTLY Invitational.
Robinsons Movieworld Prepaid MovieCards available at all Robinsons Cinema branches.



STARCONCERTS presents
Mitch Valdes ROCKS!
AUGUST 29, THURSDAY, 9 P.M.
at Onstage
2nd level, Greenbelt 1, Ayala Center, Makati City
Show tickets at P600 • P800 (plus 3% ticketron charge)
Tickets are available at all TicketWorld outlets. For inquiries and reservations call 891-5610

MAKATI CINEMANILA 2002
4TH INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL
August 1-15, 2002
INQUIRER

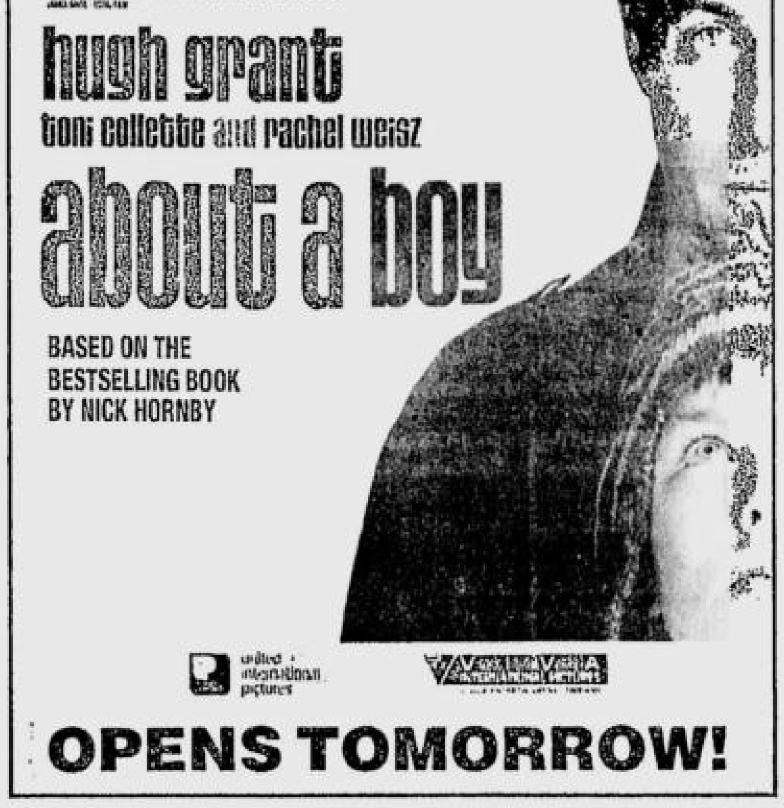
AYALA CINEMAS
Don't miss the last few days of the film that captured the hearts of many moviegoers!
AMELIE
w/ 5 OSCAR NOMINATIONS
NOW ON ITS 6th WEEK ONLY AT THE GREENBELT 3 CINEMA!
MTRCB Rating: Parental Guidance 13
For screening schedules, call 729-7777
Solar FILMS INC.

POWER PLANT CINEMA
Rockwell Center, Makati City ☎ Tel. No: 8981440-41 DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND-EX

MEN IN BLACK 2 - PG 13 11:45, 1:45, 3:45, 5:45, 7:45, 9:45	STUART LITTLE 2 - GP 12:30, 2:20, 4:10, 6:00, 7:50, 9:40	STUART LITTLE 2 - GP 1:25, 3:15, 5:05, 6:55, 8:45
WINDTALKERS - PG 13 1:00, 3:40, 6:20, 9:00	SORORITY BOYS - R 18 1:30, 3:35, 5:40, 7:45, 9:50	WINDTALKERS - PG 13 11:40, 2:10, 4:50, 7:30, 10:10

MATINEE P80.00 - FREE SEATING - SCREENINGS BEFORE 5 PM - MON. TO FRI.

THEATRE-MALL GREENHILLS
NOW SHOWING
CINEMA 1: WINDTALKERS 1:00, 3:40, 5:20, 9:00, 11:10, 1:50, 4:30, 7:10, 9:50 P 13
CINEMA 2: STUART LITTLE 2 11:10, 1:20, 3:30, 5:40, 7:50, 10:00 GP
All Reserved Seating P120.00
TICKET PRICES & SCREENING TIME SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE.
MUSIC MUSEUM
AUGUST 7 - 24, 2002 ALIKABOK 8:30 PM
AUGUST 30 & 31, 2002 SOUTH BORDER w/ KYLA 9:00 PM
FOR INQUIRIES & RESERVATION PLS. CALL: 721-6726 OR 721-0635



MTRCB RATING PG-13 Children below 13 yrs. old will only be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult
FROM THE MAKERS OF 'BRIDGET JONES'S DIARY' AND THE PRODUCERS OF 'MEET THE PARENTS'
"GRANT IS BRILLIANT...HUGELY ENTERTAINING."
"THE COMEDY OF THE YEAR. HILARIOUS."
"BRILLIANT...ROARINGLY FUNNY."
"TOTALLY UNMISSABLE...A TRIUMPH."
"EXCRUCIATINGLY FUNNY."
hugh grant
toni collette and rachel weisz
about a boy
BASED ON THE BESTSELLING BOOK BY NICK HORNBY
united international pictures
OPENS TOMORROW!

THEATER MOVIE GUIDE

ARANETA CENTER THEATERS 911-3101	
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-1	ANG GALING GALING MO BABES
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-2	PAKISABI NA LANG
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-3 (DDS)	WIND TALKERS
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-4 (SDDS)	STUART LITTLE 2
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-5 (DTS)	MEN IN BLACK 2
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-6 (DOLBY)	MEGIDDO
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-7 (DOLBY)	SORORITY BOYS
FARMERS PLAZA-1 (DOLBY)	WINDTALKERS
FARMERS PLAZA-2 (DOLBY)	ANG GALING GALING MO BABES
FIESTA CARNIVAL	
NEW FRONTIER	
MANILA	
EASTERN	
MAXIM	CLOSED
MIRAMAR	DISKARTE / FRUIT SWELLING
ODEON	WINDTALKERS
ODEON-2	RUSH HOUR / PRO
ROBEN	ANG GALING GALING MO BABES
TANDEM-1	SUGAT
TANDEM-2	KATAWAN MO LANGIT KO
TIMES	RESIDENT EVIL / RIFFER
QUEZON CITY	
ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	CLOSED
ACT-4	CLOSED
CORONET-2	ORIGINAL SIN
QUEZON-1	ANG GALING GALING MO BABES
REMAR	ANG GALING GALING MO BABES
REMAR-2	WINDTALKERS
NOVA MALL - NOVALICHES CINEMA	
A	ANG GALING GALING MO BABES
B	
C	
MANDALUYONG CITY	
SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-20-79 / 633-78-51 TO 70
CINEMA-1	WINDTALKERS
CINEMA-2	STUART LITTLE 2
CAINTA RIZAL	
STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-5401 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	DOG SOLDIER
CINEMA-2	GAWIN SA DILIM
CINEMA-3	MEN IN BLACK 2
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	WINDTALKERS
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	MEGIDDO
CINEMA-6	HIYAS SA PARAISO
CINEMA-7	SELDA
CINEMA-8	SORORITY BOYS
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	WINDTALKERS
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	WINDTALKERS
CINEMA-11 (SDDS)	STUART LITTLE 2
CINEMA-12	STUART LITTLE 2
CINEMA-14	PAKISABI NA LANG
CINEMA-15	ANG GALING GALING MO BABES
LORES	
CINEMA-2	CLOSED
CINEMA-3	CLOSED
POWER PLANT CINEMA	
CINEMA-1	MEN IN BLACK 2
CINEMA-2	STUART LITTLE 2
CINEMA-3	STUART LITTLE 2
CINEMA-4	WINDTALKERS
CINEMA-5	SORORITY BOYS
CINEMA-6	WINDTALKERS
UNIWIDE METROMALL	
(LAS PINAS)	
CINEMA-1	
CINEMA-2	
CINEMA-4	
UNIWIDE COASTAL MALL	
(PARANAQUE)	
CINEMA-1	ALIPIN NG TUKSO
CINEMA-2	THE OTHER SIDE OF LOVE
CINEMA-4	ALAMID

ENTERTAINMENT

Editor **Louie C. Camino**

Martin is Aliw Hall of Fame awardee

By Marinel R. Cruz

FORMER couple Martin Nievera and Pops Fernandez will reunite on stage in this year's Aliw Awards at the Philippine Plaza Hotel on Aug. 7, she as a host and he as the recipient of the Aliw Hall of Fame Award.

Nievera is the first artist to ever receive three Entertainer of the Year awards from the 25-year-old organization. Under Aliw Awards Foundation Inc. regulations, three-time recipients of the award will be elevated to the Aliw Hall of Fame, said AAFI president Elizabeth Sison Tagle.

"This is to give other artists a chance to win the Entertainer of the Year award," Tagle said in a news conference last July 31 at the Casino Español in Manila, where she also announced the nominees in the 17 award categories.

Aliw Foundation board member Alice Reyes said this year's Entertainer of the Year would be chosen from the winners of the different categories.

Under AAFI rules, Nievera could no longer vie for the top awards. But the board could not ignore Nievera's role in the past year's live entertainment scene, Reyes said. Hence, his nomination in two categories-Best Concert Act and Best Major Concert Act.

The event, which coincides with the 25th anniversary of the foundation, will feature the performances of some of the best artists in the country.

Achievement

Tagle said special achievement awards would be given to Jose Mari Chan and the Apo Hiking Society for their contributions to live entertainment.

Nievera and Fernandez will compete with Regine Velasquez, Lani Misalucha, Freestyle and Side A for the Best Concert Act Award.

Johnny Manahan, Al Quinn, Louie Ignacio, Rowell Santiago, Floy Quintos will vie for the Best Concert Stage Director Award.

The nominees for the Major Concert Act category are (male) Nievera, Janno Gibbs, Gary Valenciano and April "Boy" Regino; (female) Jaya, Misalucha, Ai-Ai de las Alas, Lea Salonga and Velasquez; (group) Freestyle, South Border, D' Hunks, Side A-Freestyle ("Back 2 Back").

Bars and clubs

The nominess for Best Musical Performers in bars, clubs and restaurants are (male) Franco Laurel, Ogie Alcasid, Basil Valdez and Rico J. Puno; (female) Misalucha, Velasquez, Jaya and Anna Fegi; (group) South Border, Freestyle, Retrospect and Spirit of '67.

Louie Ocampo ("Crossover" Lani Misalucha), Gerard Salonga ("Broadway"), Marc Lopez ("Unleashed"), Ryan Cayabyab ("One Night with Regine") and Mon Faustino ("Gary") will compete for the Best Musical Director Award while the best emcee will be chosen from among Calvin Millado, Paolo Bediones, Dingdong Dantes, Bianca Araneta and Mark Nelson.

Actors, directors

Stage actresses Irma Adlawan, Joy Soler de Castro, Divina Cavestany, Menchu Lauchengco, Ana Abad Santos will battle for the Best Stage Actress citation.

Bart Guingona, Julien Mendoza, Nonie Buencamino, Nanding Josef, Michael de Mesa will compete for the Best Stage Actor Award.

The best stage director will be chosen from among Chris Millado, Nonon Padilla, Bart Guingona, Bobby Garcia and Ogie Juliano.

Aliw will also pay tribute to groups of artists in other fields through awards like the Best Choral Group (nominees are Ateneo Glee Club, UP Singing Ambassadors, La Salle Glee Club, UST Chorale and Bukas Palad-SJ);

Dances, productions

Best Dance Group (nominees under the cultural category: Philippine Ballet Theater, Ballet Manila, Ballet Philippines and Ramon Obusan Dance Group, Quezon City Performing Artists; under the contemporary pop/jazz category: Maneouvres, Streetboys, Power Dance, Whiplash and Dance Focus);

Best Musical Theater Production ("Cinderella," "The Secret Garden," "Aguinaldo 1899: Ang Pagpatay Kay Luna," "Hibik at Hinagpis ni Victoria Laktao") and Best Non-musical Theater Production ("Tree," "One Hundred Songs of Mary Helen Fee," "The Lark," "Proof," "Merry Wives of Manila").

Jay Cayuca, Tots Tolentino, Jong Cuenco and John Lesaca will compete for the Best Instrumentalist Award.

The best new artist will be chosen from among Kyla, Malik and Jed Madella.

NIEVERA. First artist to receive three Entertainer of the Year awards.

A message loud enough to bust the eardrums

REVIEW

By Emmie Velarde

WOUNDED inside and out, and wired for vengeance, soldier Joe Enders (Nicolas Cage) is the perfect man to send on a suicide mission.

But what clinches the job for him is a busted eardrum.

It is the height of World War II, and the United States wants to drive the Japanese out of Saipan in the Pacific Islands, the perfect launch pad for a Tokyo assault. Navajo Indians have been commissioned as "code talkers," using their ancient language.

The top two rappers of the tribe are being shipped with the white men out to Saipan, and it is Enders' job to "watch their ass." Translation in the army's very own, once-and-future code: The two will have to be killed rather than fall into enemy hands.

"It is your duty to protect the code at all costs," the OIC tells Enders. "Do you understand?"

I'm pretty sure that, at this point, Enders still can't hear a thing, but has learned to read lips. He says, "Yes sir, I do."

In fact, maybe the OIC knows Enders' condition. But what better man to protect the code than one who won't talk? Obviously one who is deaf: He can't divulge something he hasn't heard.

Less than 10

I read somewhere that Director John Woo meant this $100-million movie on another overlooked chapter of the war to look more like a documentary than like, say, "Saving Private Ryan."

I myself have come just to see the Navajos wind-talk. I expect messages carried in the air, transmitted by mental telepathy, or through the ether, something like cyberspace roused without the hardware.

But the Navajos do their thing less than 10 times throughout the movie, and never without tangible communications equipment. In a horrifying scene—as compared to others which are awful, bloody, or desperate—where the code man Ben Yahzee (Adam Beach) loses his radio to the enemy's fire, I sit up in anticipation. He's going to try smoke signals!

20 calm minutes

Unfortunately, like most of the white men in the suicide company, I mix up my American Indian tribes. Apparently, though they have a thing for ash, Navajos don't do smokegrams.

What Yahzee does is to cross over to the Jap camp to get to a radio and send an SOS in unbroken American English.

All in all, there are about 20 minutes of calm in this movie. The rest of the time is battery by successive battle sequences.

CAGE and Beach.

Okay, I must admit these parts are painstakingly and expertly choreographed. On the fourth encounter, I see the light. I am weary, as the men I am watching onscreen must be weary, too.

Woo is successful. He has also been quoted as saying, "I just want to send a message that war has to be stopped."

Watch this 1

Now, either war is basically the same anywhere and everywhere, or the message just happens to apply to much of the current Philippine situation.

Movie buff GMA should really watch this one. She'd like the part where the American OIC explains why the troops should expect resistance at their destination: "The Japanese are going to fight for every inch of that island because it is their home. But we are going to take it away from them!"

Also that part where a soldier, snatched from sure death by the Navajo Whitehorse, has an epiphany. "In 50 years, we could be sitting with the Nipponese, drinking sake and looking for somebody else's ass to kick." Ouch.

Me, I chuckle when, setting foot for the first time in the US Marines training camp, one of the two Navajos marvels, "I've never seen so many white men!"

I remember recent front-page photographs of children in Mindanao following GIs around.

More than 100

There are practical lessons to be learned as well. The principle of the Navajo code may be a clue as to why the Abu Sayyaf has not been wiped out. They have a secret language that they speak with supporters! Applying this principle to a bigger scenario, there is no reason that the government, henceforth, should lose any war against insurgents, whether in the north or in the south.

It could take one of the islands' over a hundred dialects, the more obscure the better, and devise a military code out of it. I recommend the indiscernible tongue spoken by the hostage-taker in Pasay City, which absolutely no one could decipher.

3 moments

But that's enough digression.

"Windtalkers" does nothing for my equilibrium, and yet I stay till the end. Woo manages to throw in cleverly timed Kodak moments.

On each of at least three occasions that I stand up to flee, one of these moments suddenly unravels onscreen. A harmonica-playing soldier jams with the flute-toting Navajo; a cowardly corporal picks up a legless comrade and makes a dash for safety; the dour and humorless Enders smiles, lighting up Nicolas Cage's famous blue eyes.

My ultimate reward is a bona fide Navajo ritual at last, with earth, wind and fire, and the surviving code-talker, Yahzee, sending off his erstwhile "babysitter" Enders' spirit to the four directions. And then he kneels before his little son, named George Washington Yahzee (I swear), and says . . . nothing mushy at all: "When you tell a story about him someday, don't forget to say he was my friend."

If one is lucky, the greatest upheavals will seem incidental compared with the relationships that blossomed from them.

After 2 hours

The epilogue—yes, I got this far—extols the Navajo code's role in America's WWII victories in the Pacific. It was never broken, and remained a secret until 1969. Surviving code-talkers consulted on Woo's film. Their wartime contributions were recognized with Congressional Medals of Honor last year.

Maybe Filipino veterans are next in line.

Meanwhile, Beach recounts being "shell-shocked in a couple of weeks" while shooting.

I am shell-shocked after just two hours. But I walk away from the movie house feeling invincible, and noble.

I've busted an eardrum, too. I can keep any secret.

Boob-tube booboos

LET'S lead off this week with some classic boners from **Art Linkletter**'s long-running "Kids Say the Darndest Things" show:

Linkletter: Can you tell us the story of Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden?

Kid 1: God made Adam from mud, and Eve from a rare rib!

Kid 2:—And then, the Devil hypnotized them!

Kid 3:—Then God got angry and sent them to hell. And then, they transferred to Los Angeles!

* * *

Linkletter: Are you proud to be an American?

Kid: Yes!

Linkletter: Good. Now, what exactly is an American?

Kid: Someone who lives in California!

* * *

Linkletter: What do you want to be when you grow up?

Kid: An actor!

Linkletter: Is that so? Ok, here's an acting test for you: Say "Art Linkletter" like you're mad.

Kid: "Art Linkletter like you're mad!"

* * *

Now, some new samples of our homegrown Boob-Tube Booboos:

Host: What do you like best about your girlfriend?

Guest: What I like best about her is she's a devout family!

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

(Oh, wow!)

* * *

Host: Last year, you had so many problems. Have you worked them out?

Guest: Yes!

Host: How did you work them out?

Guest: I worked out in the gym, also a lot of sports!

(Ah, not that kind of working out!)

* * *

Host: What do you think of the senator's moving to the administration party?

Guest: Well, *alam naman nating lahat na hindi na importante ang prinsipyo ngayon.*

(Speak for yourself!)

* * *

Host: Can you please warn our viewers to be vigilant against the epidemic that's starting now?

Guest: Of course! If you have the symptoms, get treatment right away. *'Pag hindi ito ginamot*, it's a fatalty!

(A—what?)

* * *

Host: What don't you understand about your boyfriend?

Guest: Just one thing I don't understand—*hindi pantay ang aming* levels of love. But I understand him, because I love him.

(Make up your mind!)

* * *

Host: Did the MTRCB cut out a big part of your movie, as reported?

Guest: No, that's not true. They didn't cut much, just shorting the love scenes!

(*Ay*, shorting!)

'Star Trek: The Next Generation'

THE final season of "Star Trek: The Next Generation" started telecasting last July 28 on Star World. It airs Sundays at 8 p.m. and Mondays at 1:30 a.m.

Season highlights: Data experiences his first nightmare, with dangerous consequences to the Enterprise crew. Troi has to use her empathetic powers to save her mothers' life. Data becomes possessed by several different personalities.

Upon their return from a mission, Picard and Data find the crew de-evolving into their animal ancestors. Picard discovers the son he never knew he had. And Picard must stop an event in the future that threatens to prevent the formation of life on Earth—four billion years ago.

Guest performers include **Ben Vereen**, **Kirsten Dunst**, **Fionnula Flanagan**, and the return of **Denise Crosby** as Tasha Yar.

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INQUIRER

TUESDAY
AUGUST 6, 2002
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
BUSINESS
Editor **Raul O. Marcelo** ◆ *Assistant Editor* **Corrie S. Narisma**
B1

June exports up
12.2% to $2.89B

Page B3

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July inflation hits 30-month low

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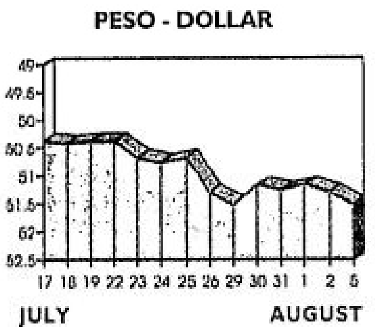
GRAPHS BY SAMMY REINOSO



PESO-DOLLAR RATE

₱ 51.51 = $1
As of 5 p.m., Aug. 5, 2002

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As of 5 p.m., Aug. 5, 2002

GOLD: $307.20/307.70
per ounce Hong Kong,
Aug. 5, 2002

T-bill rates up

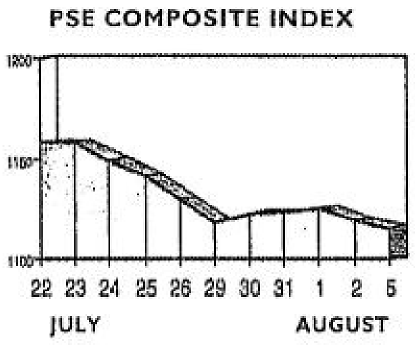
THE GOVERNMENT yesterday allowed its cost of borrowing to go up by 10.8 basis points to 4.878 percent when it accepted all bids for the benchmark 91-day treasuries following a P10-billion drop in its cash position from the previous month.

The auction committee led by the Bureau of Treasury also allowed the 182-day rate to move up by four basis points to 5.764 percent even as it rejected some of the bids for the six-month treasuries and all the offers for the one-year

T-BILL/ B5

STOCK MARKET

Stocks end at 8-month low



SHARES ended weaker yesterday in very light trade with investors shying away from stock investments mainly due to the weakness in United States and regional markets.

The benign July inflation data was largely ignored by the market.

The Philippine stock index slid 3.76 points or 0.34 percent to end at 1,115.31 points after trading in a tight eight-point range. It was the lowest closing level in the index since December 2001. Turnover narrowed to almost P239 million from Friday's P445.61 million. Losers outpaced gainers, 24 to 19, and 33 issues were unchanged.

Reuters

(See stock market report on Page B5)

By Doris C. Dumlao
and Clarissa S. Batino

THE ANNUAL inflation rate slid to a 30-month low of 2.6 percent in July as the slowdown in the prices of fuel and electricity offset the disruptions in some food supplies caused by the four typhoons that hit the country during the month.

The further drop in the year-on-year inflation rate from 3 percent in June brought the average inflation rate since the start of the year to 3.4 percent, which economic managers and analysts said should support a continued low-interest rate regime.

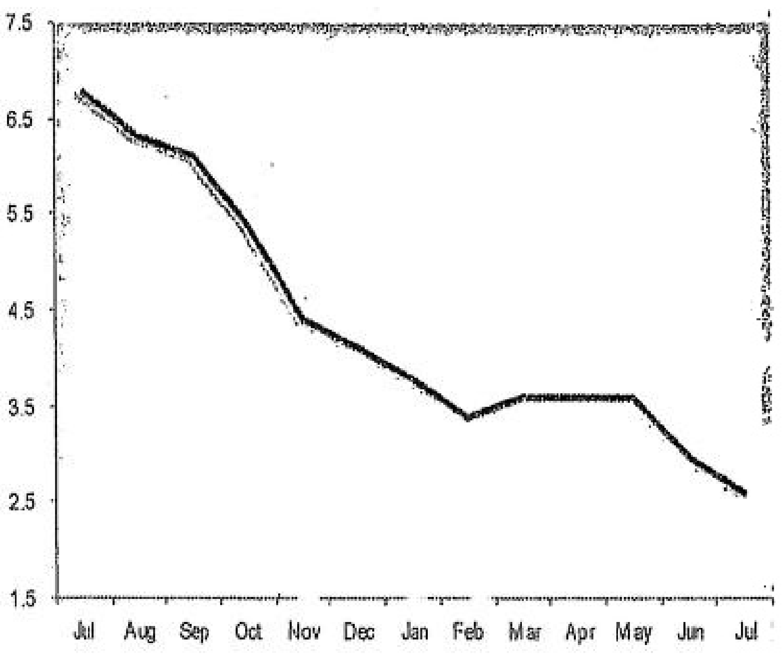
Economic Planning Secretary Dante Canlas yesterday said that given these favorable developments, the average inflation for the rest of the year would likely end up lower than the 4.5- to 5.5-percent range targeted by the government.

"Based on the average inflation rate so far this year, the average inflation for 2002 is most likely to hit 3.2 to 3.5 percent barring further unexpected shocks," Canlas said.

The Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas yesterday said the low inflation rate in July would give monetary authorities ample room to bring down overnight rates further this year.

BSP Governor Rafael Buenaventura said the declining inflation trend should not be a cause for concern as the economy

JULY/ B3



Car firms poise suit vs Subic importers

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

THE CHAMBER of Automotive Manufacturers of the Philippines Inc. is seriously considering suing importers of second-hand, right-hand drive vehicles operating inside the Subic Bay Freeport to put an end to what it considers an "industry scourge."

Persons familiar with the matter said Campi members were set to meet this week to decide whether to ask the court to bar these importers from disposing an estimated 16,000 vehicles that had piled up in Subic.

An industry source said the group was worried that these importers would ask Malacañang to release these vehicles for sale to the local market.

He said the industry wanted to put its foot down on the abuses made by vehicle importers by invoking in court the country's various laws banning the importation of right-hand drive vehicles and regulating the importation of used cars. The source said the industry's position was that imports of right-hand drive vehicles were illegal and that the government needed only to enforce its laws to stop this trade from further undermining the industry.

The used vehicle imports have piled up at the freeport since the first quarter of this year after the Bureau of Customs issued an order tightening the entry of right-hand drive and used vehicles through Subic. The Subic vehicle importers have earlier obtained a court injunction barring the BOC from enforcing its order.

Fortunately for the local automotive industry, the used vehicles remained on hold in the freeport because the Department of Trade and Industry-Bureau of Import Services has refused to issue import permits to the Subic traders as required by the BOC before releasing the used vehicles.

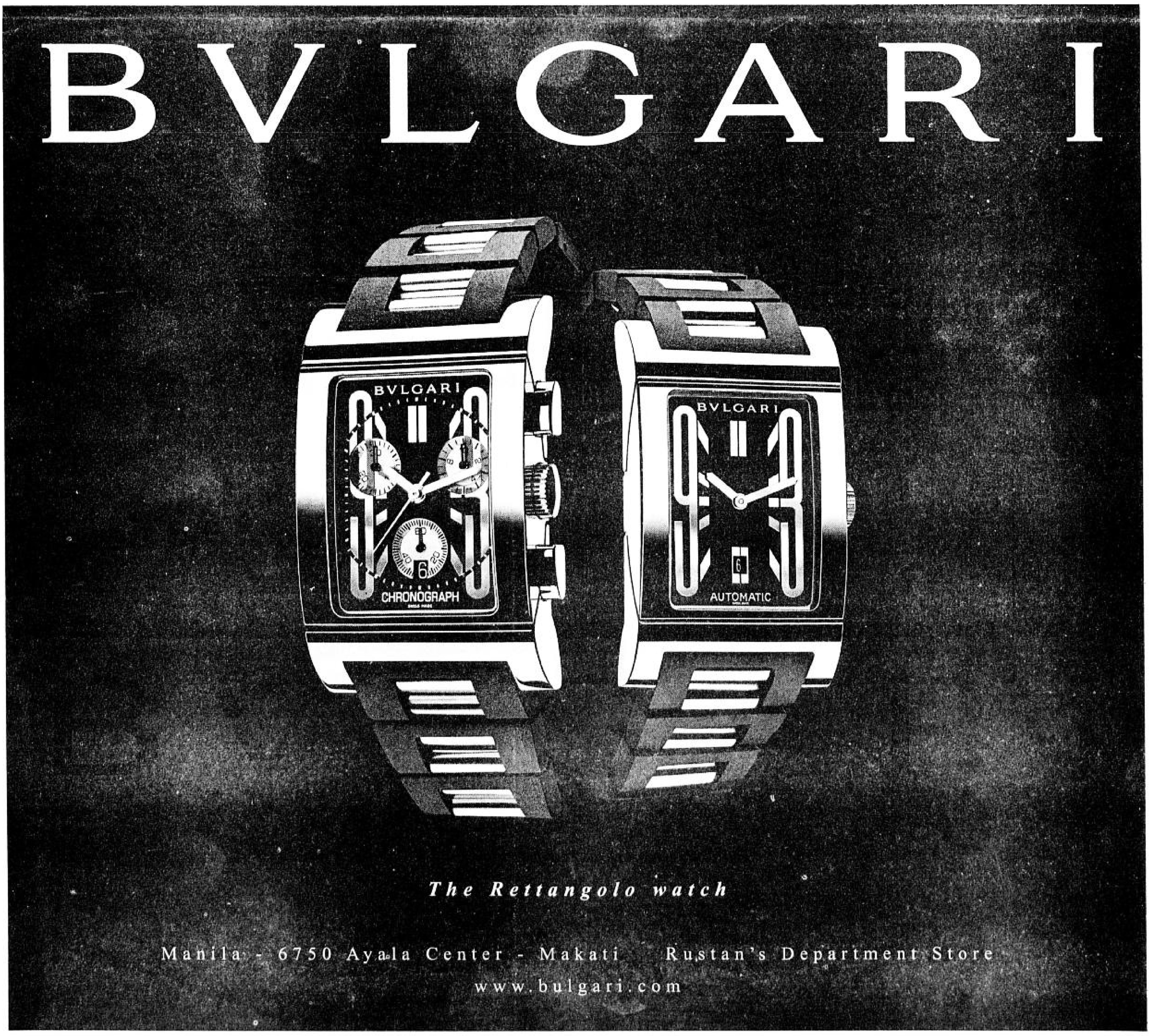
For the past few years, Subic vehicles importers plied their trade without the DTI-BIS permit because the government was lax in implementing its rules until the local automotive industry complained about the growing number of used-vehicle imports coming from the freeport.

But recent reports showed that Subic importers were pushing for a compromise that would allow them to dispose all their inventory in exchange for stopping their importation.

The source said a number of Campi members opposed this move because it would mean condoning an illegal action without any clear resolution that the government would not tolerate importation of second-hand, right-hand drive vehicles in the future.

The government has been under intense pressure from both Japanese and American assemblers to slam the door on used-vehicle imports since last year but it has yet to come up with a clear policy on the issue.

Assemblers see used-vehicle imports a serious threat because it loses a potential sale for every second-hand unit sold by Subic traders. They also cited the serious risks to health and public safety posed by the used vehicle imports.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Hot for soot

BREAKTIME

Conrado R. Banal III

EVERYBODY knows that the BIR is filing cases against establishments which misdeclare their VAT payments. Another word for "misdeclare," in BIR parlance, is "cheat."

In police parlance, the filing of those cases means that the BIR is in hot pursuit. While the BIR is at it, somebody suggested that the BIR should also run after those who, one way or another, caused the drop in BIR collection over the years.

Not the least of them are tax consultants and tax lawyers. Theirs is an entire thriving industry. They are the "experts" who earn a lot of money by showing their clients how to deprive the government of a lot of money.

Their clients, surely, are all rich. Therefore they pay much less tax than we do down here, as correctly noted by Sen. Vilma . . . este, Ralph Recto.

* * *

ALSO in my source's list of public enemies of the BIR are the lawmakers. It's not even because lawmakers are hitting the BIR for the drop in its tax collection.

Today, for example, the BIR collects a lot less tax from the oil industry, simply because a lot more of the oil products sold here are imported.

That is all thanks to our beloved lawmakers. If I remember correctly, Congress made the law on oil industry deregulation—and not my favorite pet cockroach.

I'm not saying that certain lawmakers have brains equal in size and function to that of my cockroach. I'm only saying they make laws which are good for cockroaches.

* * *

AS we all know, anyway, the oil deregulation, as it was created by Congress, opens the business to any company, whether or not it has an oil refinery in the country.

They just import everything. Moreover, thanks to another law, which Congress also made, you pay less tax on imports today than you do on locally made goods.

Yet Congress never covers for the revenue loss from the laws it creates, say, with other revenue measures. Like congressional pork, tax laws are not popular.

There—now you see why certain lawmakers are mad at the BIR for the drop in tax collection. Less collection means there's a danger lawmakers may not get their pork.

* * *

ALSO in hot pursuit of the PLDT board is the First Pacific of Hong Kong, which is selling its holdings in PLDT to the Gokongwei group.

First Pacific has a little problem. As a policy, based on its public statements, the PLDT board cannot allow the Gokongwei group to do due diligence on PLDT.

The Gokongwei group happens to own another telephone firm—Digitel. It's like assigning the Abu Sayyaf to take care of the government's tourism promotion.

But a certain Ronald Brown of First Pacific has a bright idea. In fact, only last week, he writes the PLDT board about it.

And that is, the Gokongwei group can do the due diligence first. Just forget that the Gokongwei group competes with PLDT for now. The issue can be tackled later. Nice!

* * *

IT'S not known if Brown regards all the members of the PLDT board as complete imbeciles, but such is the conclusion which you may get from his bright idea.

Still, the PLDT board favors Brown's bright idea with a discussion. The board concludes that its members are not stupid after all to agree to the bright idea.

Precisely, the board writes Brown, the "potential for harm" to PLDT remains, coming from First Pacific's unclean hands in the deal. What's that—hot for soot?

First Pacific will enjoy a windfall from the deal. As for all the other stockholders of PLDT, they will enjoy having a competitor interest control their company.

The PLDT board thus tells Brown, please, just to go to hell with his nice little bright idea, in a diplomatic way, of course.

* * *

AS for the hot pursuit of crime syndicates—drugs, tax fraud, kidnap for ransom, smuggling, etc. , this cute administration of Gloriaetta must take a look into the syndicate in Napocor.

Not too long ago, after an investigation, Napocor was supposed to file criminal charges against one of its top executives—a certain M. R. Abesamis.

Instead of getting the criminal cases, the wonderful guy got a big promotion. He is now the manager of the Caliraya-Botocan-Kalayaan power complex—the famous CBK!

It all started in 1996 when Abesamis was the project director of Sucat-Araneta-Balintawak power transmission project. The contract went to the ABB-Siemens consortium.

As project director, meaning, he was on the side of Napocor, Abesamis had to monitor the consortium, whether or not it fulfilled its part of the deal.

Based on a Napocor investigation, Abesamis made a separate agreement with ABB-Siemens. It only reduced the work of the consortium.

Without much ado, Abesamis then gave the work to another firm, Alfine Construction. His move only cost the government an additional P10 million. Peanuts!

* * *

IN the Napocor investigation, the guy even argued that the government saved a lot of money because of the contract with Alfine Construction. I see!

It could have cost P20 million or even P30 million. Thanks to his devotion to duty, in effect, only P10 million of our tax money was wasted.

Napocor, which is owned by the government, did not have to spend that P10 million. It was already part of the work of ABB-Siemens.

The Napocor investigation also showed that Abesamis claimed he got a "verbal" instruction from then Napocor president Guido Alfredo Delgado.

Still, the Napocor investigators recommended that criminal charges be filed against Abesamis for violating the graft and corruption law.

As I said, no case was ever filed against this wonderful guy. He is now the manager of the important CBK complex, which has juicy contracts. As punishment, in other words, he was rewarded.

DTI to push for deferment of programmed tariff cut

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

THE DEPARTMENT of Trade and Industry will push for a deferment of the programmed reduction in the country's tariffs to a uniform 5 percent within the next 18 months in a bid to protect the beleaguered manufacturing industry.

Trade Secretary Manuel A. Roxas II said the Cabinet was set to decide within the month whether the Philippines would proceed with its tariff reduction program that was made during the Ramos administration.

Although Roxas was noncommittal on his stand on the proposed backtracking of the tariff cut pledges, a DTI source said the agency would support the local manufacturing industry's position to void the commitment to cut tariffs.

Industry players lobbied for the deferment of the tariff reduction program on grounds that the economy did not perform as well as the Ramos economists had predicted.

The industry cited the Asian financial crisis that the economists did not foresee but whose effects continue to hobble the Philippines' bid to go back to the road to recovery.

The local manufacturing firms claimed that while it was prepared for the upcoming Asean Free Trade Area (where all intra-traded goods will get a maximum duty of 5 percent) next year, it was not yet ready for wider competition with non-Asean countries (or those with most favored nation duties) in just one year.

Most industries are currently saddled with debt, cash flow problems, excess capacity, feeble consumer demand and escalating cost of production.

Roxas refused to comment on whether the National Economic and Development Authority would take up its traditional position of opposing any plans to defer the trade liberalization program.

Roxas admitted, however, that the Philippines was already ahead of its commitment in reducing its tariffs under the WTO.

Industries claimed that the government's eagerness in opening the markets had given them less than ideal time to prepare for competition against imports.

SEC asked to intervene in social club disputes

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

THE SECURITIES and Exchange Commission (SEC) is being urged to intervene in boardroom squabbles of social clubs especially if the disputes involved the management of millions of pesos in members' funds.

Former Foreign Secretary Roberto P. Romulo said the SEC should drop its "hands-off policy" on disputes involving social club because they were no different from pre-need companies, whose investment funds were regulated by the corporate watchdog.

Romulo said it was about time that the SEC regulate the operation and management of social clubs because a number of them, including Baguio City Country Club and Makati Sports Club, had experienced internal squabbles over the control or management of as much as hundreds of millions of pesos in membership funds and club assets.

Romulo is part of the self-styled Good Governance team aiming to take control of the Manila Polo Club board in its election of directors this month. His party-mates in the reform-minded team are former Central Bank Governor Jose L. Cuisia Jr., former Philippine Ambassador Jesus P. Tambunting, former Philippine Ambassador Isabel Caro Wilson, and former Capital Markets advisor Roman A. Azanza Jr. Five seats on the nine-member board are up for grabs in the elections.

The group has accused the current board of imprudent management of the club's finance which it claimed lost P79 million over the last four years in contrast to the board's report that it generated P73.4 million in profits during the period.

Cuisia said the board had already exhausted the club's general fund as of last year and it was able to hide the club's losses by reclassifying the P155 million pesos in associate membership fees from restricted to unrestricted and co-mingling them with the general fund. Cuisia said the club could have earned more had it invested the previously restricted funds rather than spending them on questionable projects.

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4. CALATAGAN GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB "A"	100,000	80,000
5. CAMP JOHN HAY	280,000	250,000
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12. EAGLERIDGE GOLF CLUB "A"	350,000	330,000
13. EVERCREST GOLF CLUB "A"	100,000	
14. FOREST HILLS GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB "A"	220,000	200,000
15. FOREST HILLS GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB "B"	280,000	
16. FOREST HILLS GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB "C"	500,000	
17. MAKATI SPORTS CLUB "A"		250,000
18. MAKATI SPORTS CLUB "B"	280,000	260,000
19. MANILA GOLF CLUB (IND.)		10,500,000
20. MANILA POLO CLUB	2,800,000	2,750,000
21. MANILA SOUTHWOODS GOLF CLUB "A"	650,000	600,000
22. MANILA SOUTHWOODS GOLF CLUB "B"	730,000	700,000
23. METROPOLITAN CLUB "A"		100,000
24. METROPOLITAN CLUB "B"	150,000	
25. MT. MALARAYAT GOLF CLUB (IND.)	350,000	
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29. QUEZON CITY SPORTS CLUB	220,000	200,000
30. RIVIERA GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB "A"	200,000	
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32. STA. ELENA GOLF CLUB "A"	1,800,000	1,600,000
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PROF. EMMANUEL A. LEYCO
Program Director, AIM
Jaime V. Ongpin Professor in Public Finance

Prof. Leyco has worked in the health care sector as a public finance specialist for projects of the Department of Health. He was consultant to local government units on credit issues in municipal bond financing. Prof. Leyco was Medicare Program Director at the New York City Health and Hospital Corporation. He has also worked as health care revenue bond analyst at Standard and Poor's in New York. He is currently the Director of AIM's Health Care Management Program.

PROF. FRANCISCO P. BERNARDO, JR.
Caltex Professor of Business Management

Professor Bernardo was the Dean of the Institute from 1990 to 1995. His areas of specialization are operations management and systems analysis and has worked with various industries on the different areas of management, strategy formulation, logistics planning, feasibility studies, project management and executive development training.

PROF. RENE T. DOMINGO
Sime Darby Professor for Manufacturing

Prof. Domingo teaches operations management, total quality management (TQM) quantitative analysis, service delivery, management information systems, and business process reengineering in numerous training seminars and workshops. He is the author of Prentice Hall's best-selling guide on *TQM – Quality Means Survival* and the *It's the Customer – Creating and Delivering World-class Banking Services*.

June exports up 12.2% to $2.89B

By Doris C. Dumlao

BOOSTED by the continued rebound in the shipments of electronic components, the country's merchandise exports rose by 12.2 percent in June to $2.89 billion from the year-ago level.

The National Statistics Office said merchandise exports expanded by 4.3 percent in June to $16.67 billion from $15.99 billion in the same period last year, when the local export sector was badly hit by a global slowdown.

Analysts said the increased dollar receipts from exports should help support the Philippine peso, which has been a laggard among the currencies in the region in the last few months. Some, however, warn that the revenue stream from exports may slow down in the next few months due to the weakening of the US' economic growth.

The United States remained the country's biggest export market accounting for 25.9 percent of the country's total exports in June. The export value, however, declined by 2.5 percent.

Japan ranked the second biggest with a 15.4-percent share, with value of shipment rising by 3.4 percent.

Electronic components receipts rose 16.4 percent to nearly $1.60 billion in June. They accounted for 55.2 percent of aggregate export revenue for the month.

Garments, the No. 2 export item, rose 3.7 percent to $215.93 million, while metal components' revenue surged 23.5 percent to $37.07 million.

Receipts from agro-based products rose by 8.5 percent, accounting for 4.6 percent of the total.

The rest of the country's exports consisted of special transactions, mineral products, petroleum and forest products.

"The double-digit growth was very healthy, but one of our major trading partners, the United States, is now suffering from an economic slump because of lower disposable incomes. So the export prospects can be viewed with optimism mixed with a little pessimism," PCI Capital Corp. analyst Mike Ordinanza said.

Ordinanza noted, however, that the spillover effect of the slowdown in the United States would lag by about six months, which means a sustained growth in Philippine exports for the rest of the year.

He also said the local currency, which was again the subject of speculative attacks due to budget deficit jitters, should be boosted by increasing dollar earnings from exports.

Ordinanza projected that a net positive export performance could contribute 0.5- to 1-percentage-point growth to the country's gross domestic product.

"I'm looking at an export growth of 5-6 percent for the rest of the year," Ordinanza said.

The Philippines posted a 15-percent contraction in export receipts last year as local goods faced a rough sailing due to the global slowdown. A 14-month slowdown, however, was reversed in April this year.

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ALABANG COUNTRY CLUB A/B*	-	1,650,000
BAGUIO COUNTRY CLUB	700,000	725,000
CALATAGAN GOLF CLUB A/B*	-	95,000/105,000*
CAMP JOHN HAY GOLF	280,000	300,000
CANLUBANG	-	500,000
CAPITOL HILLS	-	110,000
CELEBRITY SPORTS CLUB	165,000	180,000
CLUB FILIPINO	-	* 200,000
EAGLE RIDGE A/B*/C**	-	350,000/450,000*/600,000**
EVERCREST A/B*	135,000*	100,000
FONTANA D/C*/B**	-	85,000/150,000*250,000**
FOREST HILLS A/C*	210,000/250,000**	230,000/260,000**
MAKATI SPORTS A/B*	250,000/260,000*	270,000/280,000*
MANILA POLO CLUB	2,750,000	2,500,000
MANILA SOUTHWOODS A/B*	-	650,000/700,000*
METROPOLITAN A/B*	100,000	115,000/125,000*
MIMOSA IND./C2**/C***	95,000/275,000***	110,000/300,000**
MT. MALARAYAT A/C*	-	350,000/425,000*
ORCHARD A/B*/C**	Please call	Please call
PUERTO AZUL	100,000	115,000
QUEZON CITY SPORTS CLUB	200,000	220,000
RIVIERA A/C**	170,000/300,000**	195,000/400,000*
ROCKWELL CLUB	-	425,000
ROYALE TAGAYTAY A/B*/C**		90,000/150,000*/180,000**
SHERWOOD HILLS A/B*/C**		100,000/250,000*/350,000**
STA. ELENA GOLF CLUB A/B*	-	1.8M
SUBIC BAY IND./CORP.*	290,000*	200,000/300,000*
TAGAYTAY HIGHLANDS CC/GOLF*	800,000*	400,000/850,000*
TAGAYTAY MIDLANDS	780,000	790,000
VALLE VERDE IND	150,000	170,000
VALLEY GOLF	240,000	

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Review of all tariff reduction deals sought

THE OPENING yesterday of the three-day Asean Free Trade Area (Afta) meeting aimed at finalizing the planned reduction of tariffs on industrial products was met by protests from various workers and farmers groups that will be directly affected by the plan.

Senior economic officials of the Asean are meeting in Pasig City hotel for the preparatory discussions on the implementation of the Common Effective Preferential Tariffs (CEPT).

The protesters have called on the government to impose a moratorium on tariff reductions on imported products competing directly with Philippine products, and to review of all agreements entered into under the Afta, World Trade Organization and other similar groups.

The Philippines is scheduled to reduce the tariffs on a wide range of industrial products to a uniform level of 5 percent starting Jan. 1, 2003 as part of its commitment under Afta. The country's tariff reduction plan, which was endorsed by the National Economic and Development Authority, was contained approved in Executive Order No. 234, issued on April 27, 2000.

But workers and farmers, joined by industry leaders, are opposed to the plan saying that industrial and agricultural sectors will be at the losing end since only the Philippines is opening up its market while other Afta countries are keeping their high tariffs and non-tariff barriers.

Also, they said that the Philippine Afta commitments were made without consultation with affected sectors and without viable safety nets.

They asked the Philippine government to renegotiate the tariff reductions and declare a moratorium on all lowering of tariffs.

July . . .

From page B1

has managed to post decent growth in the first half of the year.

"What is worrisome was if the economy would slow down because under this scenario, a low inflation would be tantamount to a deflation," Buenaventura explained.

The central bank chief said a slow economic growth in the second semester would compel the BSP to cut its overnight rates from the current 7 percent for borrowing and 9.25 percent for lending.

"With our without a cut in the US Fed, if the economy slows down, it would precipitate a rate cut from our end," he said. Since the overnight reduction last March 14, the Monetary Board has kept overnight rates unchanged at their 10-year lows.

The year-on-year inflation rate for the National Capital Region (NCR), which has the biggest concentration of electricity and fuel users, eased to 2.9 percent in July from 3.7 percent in June. The index for areas outside the NCR likewise fell, albeit only slightly, to 2.5 percent from 2.6 percent in June, the National Statistics Office reported.

Month-on-month inflation was also stable at 0.2 percent in July, which Canlas attributed to the 3.9-percent drop in electric bills associated with the cut in purchased power adjustment (PPA) costs as well as the P0.36-per-liter decline in fuel prices during the month.

Nevertheless, all commodity groups except for clothing and miscellaneous items whose rates stayed at their corresponding June levels of 2.6 percent and 1.8 percent, posted slower rates on a year-on-year basis.

The inflation rate for food, beverage and tobacco moved down to 1.6 percent in July from 1.8 percent in June; housing and repairs, 4.8 percent from 5 percent; fuel, light and water, one percent from 3.7 percent, and services, 4.5 percent from 4.9 percent.

The inflation rate for food alone slightly slid to 1.5 percent in July from 1.6 percent in June due to slower rates for meat, cereal preparations, dairy products, eggs, fish and miscellaneous foods.

Canlas said that the benign inflation rate would further stabilize treasury bill rates.

"This will, in turn, generate interest savings for the national government, thus improving the chance to meet the deficit target for the year," Canlas said.

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People, Events & Products

Aries Espinosa, Editor
aespinosa@inquirer.com.ph

Stakeholders' conference on protecting Laguna de Bay

WITH ITS commitment to help save the environment, Unilever Philippines Inc. joined hands with three other organizations in a tripartite partnership called CLEAR (Conservtion of Laguna de Bay's Environment and Resources) to conserve the 18th member of the International Living Lakes—the Laguna de Bay.

The first-ever Stakeholders Conference held on July 4 at Mt. Makiling, Los Baños Laguna was participated in by Unilever, Society for the Conservation of Philippine Wetlands (SCPW), and the Laguna Lake Development Authority (LLDA). The event dubbed as "Laguna de Bay: A Lake for Life" also launched an information campaign to save the country's largest living lake.

Speakers in the conference included Chito Macapagal, general manager of Unilever Philippines; Calixto Cataquiz, general manager, LLDA; Amy Lecciones, president SCPW; and Wilfrido Nava, president, Federation of River Basin Councils. They all agreed in one goal: the importance of stakeholders' action in conserving the living lake. Also present was guest of honor Rep. Joaquin Chipeco of the 2nd district of Laguna.

Macapagal said "We will not allow our children to clean up Laguna de Bay, like what we are doing to Pasig River right now. What we need to do is for us to help each other in fulfilling this mission."

The River Council's community-based activities such as water quality monitoring, river clean up, and capacity building training between the fisher folks are just few of the proofs of their dedication to conserve the lake for the future generation.

The work of CLEAR was highlighted particularly in elevating the status of Laguna de Bay to an international level, with the inclusion of the lake as the 18th International Partner in the Living Lakes network last year.

Everyone who attended the event including the media, fisher folk, and advocates, was asked to write down their personal pledges to help conserve Laguna de Bay.

In his closing remarks, Unilever's chair and CEO Howard Belton, said, "Indeed, our activities—though done separately, are actually one in intent—all focusing on the welfare of Laguna de Bay. This is at the heart of the Philippine Agenda 21, where government, businesses, and civil society come together in the name of sustainable development."

The fisher folk of Laguna were represented by Lorenzo M. Espiritu, chair, Municipal Fisheries and Aquatic Resource Management Councils (MFARMC) Victoria, Laguna; Domingo Bracamonte, chair, MFARMC Pililia, Rizal; Juan Ambal, chair, MFARMC Pakil, Laguna; Matilde Erasga, president, MFARMC Los Baños, Laguna; Jaime Terrobias, president, MFARMC; Leonardo Pagkalinawan, president, MFARMC Taguig, Metro Manila; Mauricio Partoza, president, MFARMC San Pedro, Laguna; and Gen. Marino L. Filart, president, Federation of Fishpen and Fishcage Operators.

Microsoft Great Plains Business Solutions
GIS Global Implementation Services, Inc.

GE GETS MICROSOFT eENTERPRISE

General Electric Phils. Inc. (GE), one of the leading local manufacturing companies offering diversified services, recently signed a contract with Microsoft Business Solutions (MBS), the premier provider of interconnected business management solutions, for the purchase and implementation of Microsoft Great Plains eEnterprise. Global Implementation Services Inc. (GIS), MBS' business partner, will implement the software system for GE. At the contract signing at the MBS office are (standing) Bo Lundqvist, GIS business development manager and Patty Bernardo, MBS customer loyalty manager. Seated, from left, are Pacito del Rosario, GE Philippines VP-finance, Renato Romero, GE Philippine president, Alex Ramos, MSGP operations director, and Bernard Morgan, GIS president.

DSAP OFFICERS WITH CO-PRESENTORS

Officers of the Drugstores Association of the Philippines (DSAP) pose with their co-presentors during their sponsors and exhibitors meeting at the Mabuhay Palace, Manila Hotel for the upcoming 6th DSAP National Convention on Aug. 22 to 23 at The Manila Hotel. Shown are (from left) are Roy Ragudos, (representative for Unilab Distribution, PhCare, Ritemed), Aris Geronimo (Pharex Health Corp.), Gloria N. de Chavez (DSAP national president), Johnny Inocencio (chair, ways and means committee) and Reza Rodriguez (Abbott Laboratories). For inquiries, call the DSAP secretariat at 631-4254 and telefax 633-5253.

Dial-A-Friend now until 10 pm

DIAL-A-FRIEND Teen Hotlines, the teen counseling project of the Foundation for Adolescent Development Inc. (FAD), has extended its service hours until 10 p.m. starting Aug. 1.

With hotline numbers 734-8902, 734-8903, 734-9663 and 734-9664, Dial-A-Friend will now be able to serve more callers with its 12-hour run starting at 10 am.

The extension was made possible with the support of the Rotary Club of Chinatown (RcC) which considers the project worthy of helping young adults to deal with various issues on sexuality, reproductive health, adolescence, family life, and peer pressure.

Dial-A-Friend was launched by FAD 11 years ago with Lea Salonga and the teen group Menudo (which included the young Ricky Martin) as its celebrity endorsers. Since then, it has helped thousands of young adults who do not have somebody knowledgeable to turn to when it comes to dealing with their personal problems.

"Sometimes, all you need is someone to talk to to ease your problems. This is what Dial-A-Friend has been offering to thousands of teenagers who do not have the courage to speak to somebody face to face and would rather remain anonymous but are equally burdened with their own problems," explains Aurora Silayan-Go, president of FAD.

Dial-A-Friend receives a wide range of cases, some as simple as boy-girl relationships and as serious as depression and suicide.

"The task of the counselor is to identify the main concern of the caller so as to arrive at a proper intervention and more often, this is not an easy task, especially when the caller is ashamed or not ready to open up. By building rapport, questioning, probing and by letting them ventilate their feelings in an atmosphere of trust, the counselor is able to build a helping relationship that would eventually move the client to share her real problem. This involves skills, patients and an altruistic attitude in order to achieve both the goal of the client and the counselor," Go says.

FAD also offers e-mail-a-friend as a service. Visit www.teenfad.ph and click the e-mail-A-Friend button.

Product FILES

Progress awarded most outstanding

IN RECOGNITION of exemplary performance, product excellence and corporate quality service, Progress was awarded Most Outstanding Baby Powdered Milk Brand. Presented by President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo at the 2002 National Consumers Quality Awards. The ceremony took place at Camp Aguinaldo, Quezon City on Father's Day, June 16.

GMA VISITS LUEN THAI PHILIPPINES

President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo recently visited Luen Thai Philippines in Clark Field, Pampanga. Luen Thai Philippines is considered as one of the leaders in the local apparel manufacturing industry. Luen Thai Philippines president Willie Tan explains a sewing process to Arroyo and Clark Development Corp. president Dr. Emmanuel Angeles.

BITS Clips

'Fashion Storm 2002'

AS ADDED dining entertainment at Holiday Inn Resort Clark Field in Pampanga, Mequeni Café treats guests this August to "Fashion Storm 2002". Experience a fusion of upbeat fashion and fantastic food in a parade of the casual, corporate and couture collections of designers from the Fashion Designers Association of the Philippines. Featured couturiers are Francis Calaquian on Aug. 9, Francis Vizcarra and Jon Fernando on Aug. 16, Dennis Martin and Ivan dela Cruz on Aug. 23, and Arielle Agasang on Aug. 30. Cata Figueroa Jr. directs the series. The shows start at 12:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m., coinciding with the international lunch buffet and poolside barbecue dinner buffet. Entrance to all fashion shows is free to all dining guests. For inquiries, call the banquet sales office at 845-1888 or (045)5998000 local 1324, 1301 or 1378.

SPONSOR'S CONTRACT SIGNING

Shown at the contract signing are Elizabeth B. Flores, director-in-charge, National Marketing Week, Catherine R. Bengzon, advertising and promotions manager, commercial centers group, Ayala Land Inc. and Jose Emmanuel D. Taña, over-all chair, National Marketing Week.

Portraiture workshops at CCP

THE "BASIC...and Beyond" photo workshops will be conducted by the Society of Portrait Photographers of the Philippines (SPPP) in August. On Aug. 10 and 11, Portrait Photography and on Aug. 25, Figure Photography will be tackled. The photo workshops will be held at the Tanghalang Manuel Conde at the Cultural Center of the Philippines, Roxas Boulevard, Manila. The workshops are part of the Asian Mentor Series being conducted by SPPP for serious photography hobbyists, or for those who want to become professional photographers or go into business. The series is in cooperation with Fujifilm, Canon Super East, CCP, Visio Lights, Ynzal Marketing Corp. (Apple Computers) and the Philippine Tourism Authority. For registration, call SPPP through 801-3786, 0917-3994437 or 0917-4118339. E-mail photoworkshops@sppp.org or www.sppp.org.

The art and business of balloons

AS AN ART form, balloon-making is gaining wide acceptance all over the world and drawing artists of different backgrounds and styles. Balloon art is new, exciting and different. An International Balloon Arts Convention is held every year in the United States, with participants coming from all over the world for seminars, competitions, and balloon events. For those interested in balloon art, Filstar Distributors Corp. will conduct a series of seminars on dream weddings and debuts (Aug. 15), centerpieces (Aug. 29), basic balloon bouquet (Oct. 10), elegant flowers and balloons (Oct. 24), and balloons and gifts bouquet (Nov. 7). Participants should first undergo the basic and intermediate classic balloon décor on Sept. 12 and Nov. 28. For reservations, call 671-0555 or 671-1442, look for Jojie Ferrer.

DBP OPENS ART EXHIBIT ON THE ENVIRONMENT

The Development Bank of the Philippines (DBP) is showcasing an impressive selection of the works of artists from Tanay as part of a month-long exhibit dubbed 'Anyo at Kulay ng Kalikasan' at the Ugnayan Hall of the DBP Head Office in Makati City. President and CEO Simon R. Paterno said that the exhibit further underscores DBP's important thrust of promoting environmental responsibility and concern as part of its holistic approach in carrying out its development mandate. The exhibit is open to the public for free until Aug. 9, from 8:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. Shown viewing the artworks on display are (from left) Paterno, Metrobank president Antonio Abacan, DBP chair Vitaliano N. Nañagas II, and Metrobank vice chair Placido Mapa Jr.

RP McCulloch distributor joins Home & Garden Asia 2002

A FILIPINO company, which is the exclusive distributor of world-renowned McCulloch products in the Philippines since 1988, will be one of the exhibitors in Home & Garden Asia 2002, the international exhibition on home and garden products slated on Sept. 19 to 21 at the World Trade Center Metro Manila.

Evan Hardware Inc., which is credited for the remarkable success of McCulloch products in the Philippines, is recognized for its quality products and excellent service to its clients. In operation for more than two decades, it has the expertise in procuring quality products at very reasonable prices.

Aside from McCulloch products, Evan Hardware also handles a wide range of products – from garden tools, power tools and machine tools to welding equipment, water pump and hardware goods.

Evan Hardware will be a welcome addition to Home & Garden 2002, Asia's most extensive marketplace and venue for specialty retailers and wholesalers, home furnishing boutiques, garden enthusiasts and holticulturists and mass market retailers.

Organized by H&G International, a division of Leverage International, Home & Garden 2002 is supported by US Commercial Service, European Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines (ECCP), Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PCCI), Subdivision and Housing Developers Association (SHDA), Philippine Horticultural Society, Philippine Bonsai Society and the Philippine Orchid Society.

For inquiries, call Elizabeth M. Cruz at 818-6828 and 813-2473, or Robert Sanchez at 813-2472 and 810-1389.

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of Monday, August 5, 2002)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	16.25	16.25	16.25	16.25	68,300
Bank of the Phil. Islands	44.5	44.5	43	43.5	958,200
China Banking Corp.	600	600	600	600	150
Citystate Savings Bank	14.25	14.25	14.25	14.25	2,000
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	29	29.5	29	29.5	345,500
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	34	35	34	34	285,100
Philippine National Bank	30	30	30	30	600
Security Bank Corp.	13.75	13.75	13.75	13.75	2,000
Union Bank of the Phil.	18	18.25	18	18.25	43,300
FINANCIAL SERVICE					
Filipino Fund Inc.	0.33	0.33	0.33	0.33	20,000
Manulife Financial Corp.	1210	1215	1210	1215	1,540
Sun Life Financial Serv.	895	895	895	895	280
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	21.75	22	21.75	22	3,000
Digital Telecom Phils. Inc.	0.63	0.63	0.62	0.63	910,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	500	500	500	500	1,610
Island Info and Tech Inc.	0.034	0.038	0.034	0.038	11,000,000
ISM Communications Corp.	0.027	0.029	0.027	0.029	5,100,000
Piltel	0.29	0.29	0.29	0.29	450,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	300	307.5	300	300	201,330
Philweb.Com Inc.	0.012	0.013	0.012	0.013	800,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	19.5	19.5	19.5	19.5	2,000
Manila Electric Co. B	27.5	28	27.5	27.5	110,600
Petron Corp.	1.74	1.74	1.72	1.74	1,606,000
Salcon Power Corp.	1.76	1.76	1.76	1.76	100,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	200,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	2.44	2.44	2.44	2.44	88,000
William, Gothong & Aboitiz	3.4	3.55	3.4	3.55	707,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Union Cement Corp.	0.68	0.68	0.67	0.67	160,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	2.22	2.22	2.22	2.22	15,000
Jollibee Foods Corp.	12	12.25	12	12	30,100
La Tondeña Distillers Inc.	31.5	31.5	31.5	31.5	5,000
RFM Corp.	0.84	0.84	0.83	0.84	310,000
San Miguel Corp. A	46.5	46.5	46.5	46.5	105,500
San Miguel Corp. B	52	52.5	52	52	103,000
Universal Robina Corp.	4.3	4.3	4.3	4.3	225,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Ayala Corp.	5.1	5.4	5.1	5.4	680,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	2.38	2.38	2.36	2.36	870,000
Balabac Resources & Hldgs.	0.11	0.11	0.11	0.11	10,000
Bacnotan Cons Indus Inc.	10	10	10	10	5,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	0.31	0.31	0.29	0.29	5,500,000
Ever-Gotesco Resources	0.025	0.025	0.025	0.025	200,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.3	12,000
First Phil Hldgs. Corp.	13.5	13.5	13	13	1,095,600
Ionics Inc.	5	5	4.9	4.9	59,000
Medco Holdings	0.055	0.06	0.055	0.06	300,000
Megaworld Corp.	0.64	0.65	0.64	0.65	750,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.27	0.27	0.26	0.26	80,000
Music Corp.	0.16	0.16	0.16	0.16	10,000
Roxas Holdings Inc.	0.75	0.75	0.75	0.75	20,000
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.0675	0.0675	0.065	0.065	200,000
Waterfront Phils. Inc.	0.22	0.22	0.22	0.22	30,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
SPI Technologies Inc.	9.8	9.8	9.8	9.8	11,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICE					
Belle Corp.	0.28	0.28	0.28	0.28	90,000
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	0.47	0.47	0.46	0.46	40,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (Pdr)	22	22	21.75	21.75	129,000
Jollibee Warrants	11.5	11.5	11.5	11.5	3,100
PLDT (10% Pref) Series V	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	1,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series W	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	3,000
PLDT 10% Pref Series Aa	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	2,400
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	6	6	6	6	3,612,000
C & P Homes Inc.	0.22	0.22	0.2	0.2	1,150,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.18	0.18	0.18	0.18	450,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.19	0.19	0.19	0.19	90,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.94	1.96	1.94	1.96	836,000
Fil-Estate Land Inc.	0.18	0.18	0.17	0.17	520,000
MRC Allied Ind. Inc.	0.135	0.135	0.135	0.135	500,000
SM Development Corp.	0.78	0.78	0.78	0.78	20,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	5.7	5.9	5.6	5.9	6,642,000
MINING					
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.17	0.17	0.17	0.17	290,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co. B	0.18	0.18	0.18	0.18	430,000
Manila Mining Corp. A	0.003	0.003	0.003	0.003	8,000,000
Omico Corp.	0.0024	0.0024	0.0024	0.0024	12,000,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	0.25	0.27	0.25	0.27	1,160,000
OIL					
Interport Res. B	0.0032	0.0032	0.0032	0.0032	67,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.0026	0.0028	0.0026	0.0028	71,000,000
Sinophil Corp.	0.031	0.031	0.031	0.031	200,000

	SHARES	VALUE (P)
Banks & Fin Svc	1,726,970	66,051,800.00
Comm'l & Ind'l	32,334,240	109,939,650.00
PRO	13,820,000	61,972,660.00
Mining	21,880,000	485,500.00
OIL	138,200,000	418,400.00
GRAND TOTALS:	207,961,210	238,868,010.00
AVERAGES		
Banks & Fin Svc	437.18	DOWN 8.47
Comm'l & Ind'l	1,527.71	DOWN 1.88
PRO	532.58	UP 7.46
Mining	1,091.60	UP 5.92
OIL	1.33	UNCH 0.00
All Shares Index	637.79	DOWN 2.11
Composite	1,115.31	DOWN 3.76

NO. OF ADVANCES: 19; NO. OF DECLINES: 24; NO. OF UNCHANGED: 33; NO. OF TRADED ISSUES: 76; NO. OF TRADES: 1,376

CURRENCIES

Aug. 5, 2002

Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Foreign currency in US$	Foreign currency in Peso
United States	Dollar	1.012761	1.000000	51.1950
Japan	Yen	0.008520	0.008413	0.4307
United Kingdom	Pound	1.589832	1.569800	80.3659
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.129843	0.128207	6.5636
Switzerland	Franc	0.689422	0.680735	34.8502
Canada	Dollar	0.639006	0.630955	32.3017
Singapore	Dollar	0.578886	0.571592	29.2627
Australia	Dollar	0.545668	0.538793	27.5835
Bahrain	Dinar	2.686511	2.652661	135.8030
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.270063	0.266660	13.6517
Brunei	Dollar	0.574584	0.567344	29.0452
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000111	0.000110	0.0056
Thailand	Baht	0.024056	0.023753	1.2160
UAE	Dirham	0.275753	0.272279	13.9393
Korea	Won	0.000863	0.000852	0.0436
Euro	Euro	1.000000	0.987400	50.5499
Argentina	Real	0.281323	0.277778	14.2208
Brazil	Real	0.334244	0.330033	16.8960
Denmark	Kroner	0.134639	0.132943	6.8060
India	Rupee	0.020848	0.020585	1.0538
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.266552	0.263193	13.4742
Mexico	New Peso	0.103174	0.101874	5.2154
New Zealand	Dollar	0.468500	0.462599	23.6828
Norway	Kroner	0.132436	0.130767	6.6946
Pakistan	Rupee	0.017050	0.016835	0.8619
South Africa	Rand	0.099048	0.097800	5.0069
Sweden	Kroner	0.105645	0.104314	5.3404
Syria	Pound	0.019703	0.019455	0.9960
Taiwan	NT Dollar	0.030259	0.029878	1.5296
Venezuela	Bolivar	0.000752	0.000743	0.0380

UNUSUAL TRADING MOVEMENT

SEC to investigate WG&A deal

By Elena R. Torrijos

THE SECURITIES and Exchange Commission said it would look into a possible insider trading of shares of listed shipping firm William, Gothong and Aboitiz Inc.

Reports indicated an unusual trading movement of WG&A shares a few days before the disclosure of the buy-out by the Aboitiz group of its partners, the Chiongbian and Gothong families, in the shipping firm.

"We will determine who bought (and sold) those shares," SEC compliance and enforcement department director Tomas Syquia said yesterday.

Analyst Astro del Castillo of A&A Securities and spokesperson of the Analysts Securities Association of the Philippines earlier sought a probe of the unusual trading of WG&A shares.

Trading of WG&A shares was minimal until July 25. From that day until Aug. 1, the day of the disclosure, a total of 814,455 WG&A shares changed hands at an average weighted value of P3.344 per share.

From opening at P1.70 per share on July 25, WG&A shares had continued to rise until it reached P3.40 on July 31.

On the day of the disclosure, some 345,000 shares were bought and sold with the share price rising to P3.60.

WG&A operates 23 vessels nationwide and is the largest provider of domestic ferry transportation in terms of both passenger and cargo business.

The Cebu-based firm was formed via a merger in 1996 among William Lines Inc. of the Chiongbians, Carlos Gothong Lines, and Aboitiz Shipping Corp. Earlier, the Chiongbians had tried to oust WG&A president Endika Aboitiz, who has been credited for turning the company around to profitability.

In an escrow agreement dated July 31, Aboitiz Equity Ventures, the holding company of the Cebu-based Aboitiz family, agreed to acquire 918 million shares of WG&A at P3.98 per share or a total of P3.65 billion. The shares bought represented about 51 percent of WG&A.

AEV will pay 50 percent of the purchase amount on closing date, the balance will be covered by a promissory note to the sellers payable over a 5-year period, with a one-year grace period, with interest fixed at 12 percent.

The closing of the transaction is expected in 60 to 90 days from the signing of the agreement.

WG&A posted a net income of P571 million last year on total revenues of P6.7 billion.

DISCLOSURES

NEXTSTAGE Inc. will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on Aug. 8, 9:30 a.m. at the Sta. Maria Function Room of Discovery Suites, Pasig City. Only stockholders of record as of July 12 are entitled to notice of and to vote at the meeting.

* * *

ELECTED independent directors of **Philex Mining Corp.** were Antonio Go, Bernardino Abes, Corazon de la Paz, Albert Awad, John Gokongwei Jr. and Manuel Zamora.

* * *

PHILIPPINE Long Distance Telephone Co. declared a P0.50 per share cash dividend on its series B, F, Q, Z and V 10-percent cumulative convertible preferred shares in favor of shareholders of record as of Aug.30. The dividends are payable on Sept. 30.

* * *

FIRST Philippine Holdings Corp. set for Aug. 19 the payment date for its declared 20-percent stock dividend in favor of shareholders of record as of Aug. 9.

* * *

PHILIPPINE National Bank confirmed that it had it settled its emergency loans owed to Philippine Deposit Insurance Corp. by transfer to PDIC of 22 selected government accounts and assets. ***Compiled by Maricar D. Tolosa, PDI Research***

Nenaco posts profit after 5 years of losses

By Doris C. Dumlao

NEGROS Navigation Co. Inc., the shipping subsidiary of the Metro Pacific Corp., has registered profits for the first time in five years on improved operating efficiency and lower interest expenses.

In a statement yesterday, the company announced an unaudited profit after tax of P52 million for the first six months of the year, a turnaround from the P223 million in losses recorded a year ago.

The turnaround was achieved on the heels of a 6-percent rise in revenues and a 5-percent reduction in operating expenses during the period.

"We are encouraged by Nenaco's performance in the first half of the year, the result of the hard work of our management and employees in improving the performance of our businesses, as well as our overall efficiency," Nenaco president Conrado Carballo said.

Carballo said Nenaco was committed to stay in the black with the support of its key stakeholders such as its employees union, with which a landmark moratorium on collective bargaining agreement was forged early this year.

"We are firmly committed to delivering superior passage and freight services by enhancing the quality of our people and services through efficient technologies. Our first-half results underscore the fact that the market is responding well to these initiatives," said Nenaco chief operating officer Seumas Gallacher.

Nenaco said its two primary businesses—passage and freight—posted increases in revenues by 2 percent and 16 percent, respectively, in the first semester.

This was attributed to better utilization of vessels and increased traffic on key freight routes.

Vessel operation expenses dropped to P715 million from P763 million in the first half of 2001 while terminal operating costs rose by a moderate 2 percent to P250 million from a year ago.

In line with the introduction of new technologies to improve operations and customer services, the growth in general and administrative expenses was contained at 8 percent to P136 million.

T-bill . . .

From page B1

instrument.

The government yesterday raised only P3.5 billion from the auction of three-month papers and P900 million from the six-month notes out of total tenders of P9 billion. The rate of the 364-day treasuries was kept at 5.856 percent.

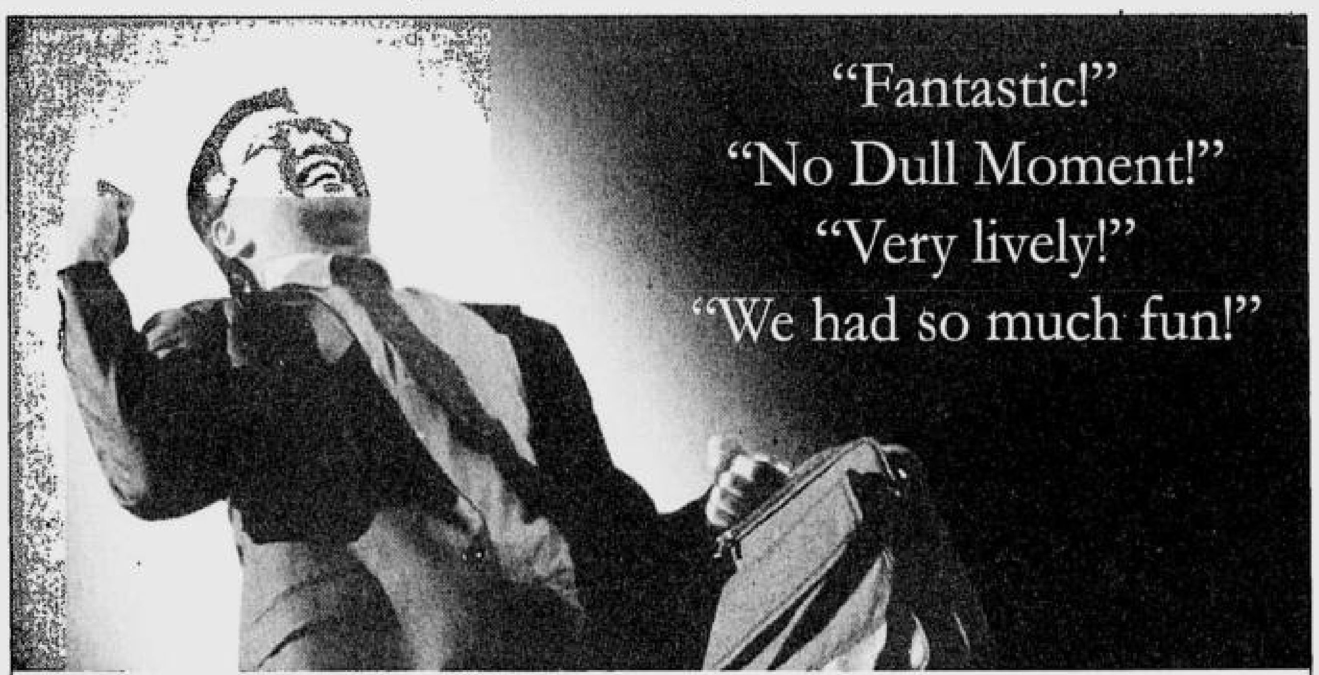
National Treasurer Sergio Edeza said the government allowed the market to let off some steam and accepted reasonable bids for the debt papers.

"The market has a habit of scaring itself. Sometimes you have to give in to their sentiments and we accepted their bids because the increase was not too much and was reasonable," he said.

Edeza said the government continued to have a healthy cash position of about P40 billion as of yesterday although this was lower than the P50 billion last month.

This means the government had used a portion of the $300-million proceeds from a seven-year global bond issue and the P62.9 billion from the sale of three- and five-year retail bonds. Both funds came in June.

"We have been paying some debts and servicing the expenditures of the government," said Edeza, who explained earlier that it was not wise for the administration to have substantial cash because it would mean higher handling costs *Clarissa S. Batino*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Terrific Time Management
(September 16-17, 2002)

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If you are the CEO or the HR manager, this is an excellent program for increasing the level of morale in your company and improving staff productivity. Time management training is also known to lower absenteeism and high turnover rates.

Tantalizing Telemarketing
(September 26-27, 2002)

In the Philippines today, there are now more than 40 call center companies attesting to the importance of using the telephone for generating new business. Yes, the telephone is an unbelievably versatile sales tool. In the hands of a master, the telephone can be a very potent tool.

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Nimble Negotiating Skills (Aug 20 and 21)

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☐ Captivating Customer Service
☐ Tantalizing Telemarketing

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Regular Rate of PhP 6,500 when reserved after Aug. 30, 2002 (Time Management) /Sept. 6, 2002 (Telemarketing)
No cancellations seven days before the workshop. Participation may be transferred to another employee in the same company.

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PDI 08-06-02

REALESTATE

Editor Cesar D. Mangawang

BREATHING SPACES

Signature layout of condo developer

Text and photos
by Tessa R. Salazar

WHAT the usual condominium residents get to see, once they step out of their units, are structures, structures and more structures. Seldom do they see the sky, the birds or the stars. Rare is a view of the sunset. The old-style condo was just a structure to live in. Period.

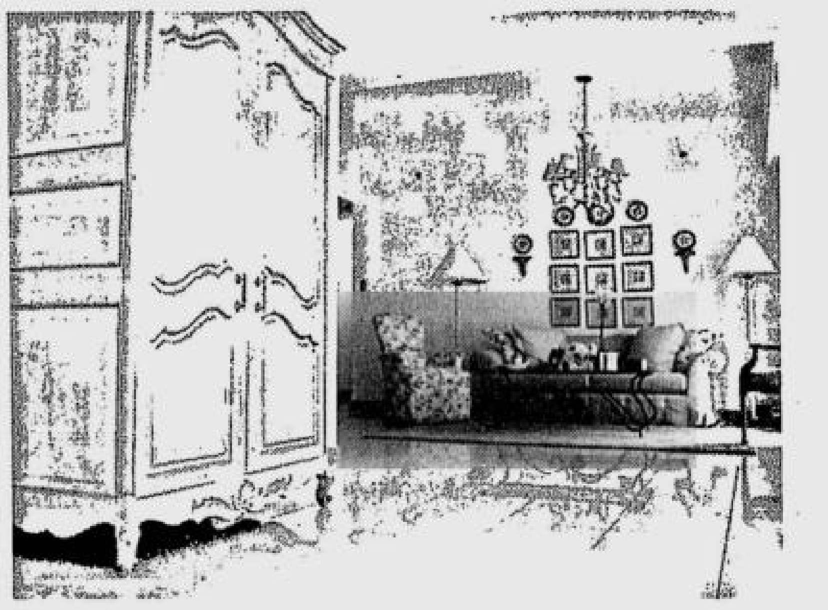
Now, the definition of "living space" is no longer boxed in the four walls of a condo. Developers are conceptualizing "breathing" spaces while constructing residential properties in the cramped metropolis. Breathing spaces mean more open space for gardens, walkways, gazebos, pools, jacuzzis, gyms and playgrounds. Breathing spaces mean residents can have more opportunities for physical fitness and interaction with their unit neighbors. Breathing spaces also mean available picnic grounds during weekends and communities communing with nature.

Signature layout

At least one developer is making such concept its signature. Federal Land Inc. has set up open spaces, lush landscapes (that can also function as picnic grounds), walkways, oriental gardens, koi ponds, swimming pools and even a children's playground into its projects. It conceptualized the Bay Gardens in the 40-hectare Metropolitan Park on Roxas Boulevard with 40 percent of its surroundings dedicated to open spaces, landscaping and jogging trails. It believes this is what exactly a community needs to complete that "community" touch.

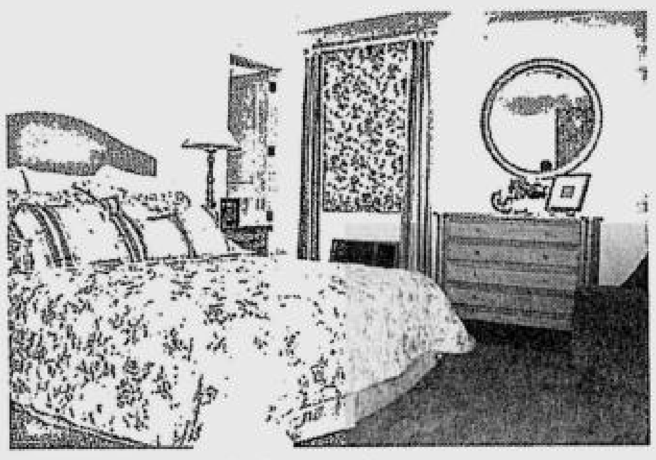
Federal Land gave priority to open spaces so residents of all ages could be more comfortable in their homes. Open space was not enough. It had to be vast. This meant allotting 50 percent of the location to be untouched, and a 200-meter jogging trail wound through the properties. Such is what could be seen in Valencia Hills, its four-tower condominium developments in San Juan.

VALENCIA Hills boasts of wide open space, 200-meter jogging trail and ample parking area.



THE LIVING room of a 3-bedroom unit

DINING area



A TYPICAL de luxe bedroom unit

VIDEOPHONE system that enables the occupant from his or her room to screen incoming visitors.

Situated at the boundaries of Quezon City and San Juan, Valencia Towers, at 12,000 sq. m, sits on one of the loftiest sides of the hilly Ortigas area. Valencia Hills is close to schools like Xavier and De La Salle Zobel, commercial hubs such as the Greenhills shopping center and Broadway Centrum.

Valencia Hills even has a view of the Makati, Pasig and Manila skylines. The towers average six units per floor (except for the penthouse where there are only four units), which means comfortable space is assured. Buildings A and B share a grand reception lobby, a swimming pool and a jacuzzi. Ditto for Buildings C and D. Valencia Towers also feature gazebos, a garden, a gym, a recreation hall, separate children and toddlers' playgrounds, a chapel and a jogging path. Each tower has three elevators.

The A and B towers are now fully occupied. Tower C—completed last year—is 85 percent occupied. The Tower D is 15 percent occupied and will soon be completed.

'Halfway houses'

Commercial stalls are found along the exterior of Valencia Hills. Concessionaires such as laundry service, a derm clinic, salons, and a café have set up shop. Metrobank has made its banking services and facilities available to residents. Taxi services are also within reach.

The people living in Valencia Hills, interestingly, have come mostly from Binondo. These units serve as "halfway houses" for the owners' kids in their daily trips to school, said Cheryl Ann Arnold, Federal Land assistant vice president for marketing services. She said, however, that people in Makati are also starting to call in and ask.

"Most of the people are attracted (to Valencia Hills) because of the open spaces, aside from its strategic location," she said.

The unit prices range from P7 million to 10 million on the penthouse (varying at 122 sq. m, 125 sq. m or 155 sq. m with a three-bedroom unit, a maid's quarters and a provision for a fourth bedroom). The De Luxe condos (3-bedroom units and maid's room) cost about P7 million. A one-bedroom unit (52 sq. m) fetches P3 million.

Videophone as security

Each unit has its own videophone with a monitor hooked up to another monitor in the lobby. This enables the occupant to screen incoming visitors. Fire alarms here not just alarm occupants, but will pinpoint where the source of the fire is, allowing residents to avoid such areas during evacuation.

A garbage shoot as well as electric and water meters are also found on each floor. "To offer a better alternative for families now means not just the four walls and the furnishings," said Arnold. She cited that Federal Land president Alfred Ty goes out of the country so often and enjoys seeing places, only to come back to the Philippines to see crowded, congested building residences. This reality in itself motivated Federal Land to offer open spaces to destroy the tradition of condos serving merely as "four-walled homes" for occupants.

"The vision is to create communities that will somehow benefit from nature and the surroundings," she said.

Moldex project reflects Angeles City's progress

PAMPANGA'S principal industries, cottage industries and the transformation of Clark Air Base into a first-class industrial estate and tourist destination have spurred the development of first-class residential projects in the province.

One such project is Metrogate Angeles, an 87-hectare master-planned community designed to answer the need of city residents for a quiet life within a progressive city.

Amenities include a multilevel clubhouse complex with swimming pools for adults and children, a golf driving range, landscaped parks, walkways, gazebo and playgrounds as well as covered and open basketball courts.

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Great nature views within city limits

AYALA Land Inc. (ALI) recently launched what is set to be an exceptional community in Quezon City. Nestled in an undulating terrain with a view of the Montalban mountains, Ayala Hillside Estates will boast of its residential development with exquisite fairway views.

Ayala Land assistant vice president and planner Joel Luna relates that the inspiration for the community was drawn from resort developments in Florida and Hawaii.

"What makes Ayala Hillside Estates unique is that it is an in-city, primary home community with the low-density atmosphere of suburban developments," he says. Ayala Hillside Estates in Old Balara, Quezon City, is minutes away from schools and universities, government offices and medical centers while remaining within commuting distance to the country's main business districts.

Ayala Hillside Estates was formerly a part of the Capitol Hills golf course. An agreement between Ayala Land and Capitol Hills sets the stage for the establishment of a precision, all-weather course for Capitol Hills members and a series of residential areas tucked among the fairways that will make up the community. The residential areas, which will total 22.3 hectares, will be linked to one another by a network of roads with picture-pretty views that wind through the course.

Homeowners in the various subneighborhoods of Ayala Hillside Estates will also be served by a community pavilion with swimming pools, a basketball court and a playground.

MAYOR Belmonte with officials of Ayala Land and Capitol Hills Golf and Country Club during the groundbreaking rites

The golf course and subdivision will be two separate and independent entities with separate access routes but sharing the same views and topography in this corner of Quezon City that has successfully defied congestion. Luna relates that Ayala Land's planners worked closely with the designers of the golf course, IMG, a worldwide leader in its field.

Quezon City Mayor Feliciano Belmonte led the groundbreaking rites at the pre-launch of the Ayala Hillside Estates, an alternative community that will rise in a section of the city that has successfully defied congestion. Also at the ceremonies were ALI president Francisco H. Licuanan, Capitol Hills Golf and Country Club president Pablo Roman, ALI executive vice president Mercedita S. Nolledo, CHGCC corporate secretary Matias Defensor, ALI vice president of sales and marketing services Marivic Añonuevo, CHGCC treasurer Angel Rodriguez and ALI executive vice president Vincent Tan.

Creba to gov't: Review water rehab slowdown

THE CHAMBER of Real Estate and Builders Associations yesterday urged the government to seriously reconsider its order for the water concessionaires to scale down their water rehabilitation programs.

The Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System was reported to have instructed Maynilad and Manila Water Co. to downscale their programmed increase in water pressure from 31 psi (pounds per square inch) to only 7 psi in order to avert a concomitant increase in water rates.

Creba said this decision appears to be a mere political ploy on the part of the government, trading the welfare of the citizenry for voter support.

In a letter to President Macapagal-Arroyo, Creba said:

"Metro Manilans have been suffering from a perennial water shortage problem wherein water supply is rationed for only 1-2 hours per day in most areas, while in other areas taps run dry for weeks or even months.

"As we understand it, the comprehensive water rehabilitation programs of the private water concessionaires are intended to solve this problem and address the future water needs of an ever-growing population, by replacing or upgrading extremely old, dilapidated and inadequate pumping stations and pipeline systems as well as improve water sourcing, allocation and delivery.

"This cannot be undertaken without considerable financial outlays, which can only be recovered by either increasing water rates, or by government subsidy, or a combination of both. It is a classic case of extremely poor governance to continue to deny the citizenry one of the most basic needs for health and hygiene—if not survival itself—simply because government is unwilling to undertake measures to address the issue of cost recovery.

"Decisively resolving the water shortage problem is long overdue. After all, this was the main reason for privatizing the water service.

"Such a precious commodity as water re-

CREBA/ p. B7

Faster DAR conversion approval urged

By Charles E. Buban

ILLUSTRATION: STEPH BRAVO

The country's leading organization of subdivision and housing developers is looking for ways to help the Department of Agrarian Reform fast-track the processing of conversion applications for its member.

The Subdivision and Housing Developers Association said that although there are a number of applications already approved, these are still not enough to create a significant impact to the housing sector.

"Although there has been progress with our DAR applications, there are still a lot of applications for land conversion or exemption still pending with the department for more than a year now," reveals Jesus Atencio, SHDA national president. "We urge for a speedy release of these DAR clearances so we could accelerate the implementation of housing projects and contribute to economic growth."

Atencio said the SHDA is planning to meet with Agrarian Reform Secretary Hernani Braganza to find out how the association could lend its assistance. "We need to find out what and where the bottlenecks are and how we can work together to eliminate bureaucratic red tape," Atencio said.

Prescribed time period

Teofisto Guingona III, who chairs the SHDA, said the DAR and other housing-related agencies should strictly follow their respective prescribed time periods for releasing permits and licenses as provided for by Executive Order 45 or the law on "Prescribing Time Periods for the Issuance of Housing Related Certifications, Clearances or Permits, and Imposing Sanctions for Failure to Observe the Same."

Guingona said the DAR and other line agencies under the guidance of EO 45 together with the SHDA should work hand in hand in providing the environment by which developers could continue to support the earlier State of the Nation commitments of President Macapagal-Arroyo of putting up 300,000 new housing units during her administration.

In accordance with the Uniform Rules on Administrative Cases in the Civil Service, the Department of Agriculture may impose against its own officials or employees the sanctions ranging from suspension to dismissal, if they fail to act promptly on letters and request within 15 days from receipt, failure to process documents and complete action on documentation and papers within a reasonable time from preparation thereof, and failure to attend to anyone who wants to avail himself of the services of the office, or act promptly and expeditiously on public transactions.

Based on Administrative Order 02 which sets the guidelines for the Implementation of EO 45, all agricultural lands within and outside of the Strategic Agricultural and Fisheries Development Zone (SAFDZ) and the Network of Protected Areas for Agricultural and Agro-industrial Development are eligible for reclassification to non-agricultural use such as residential use.

Implementing rules

In accordance with Section 9 of Republic Act 8435 or the Agriculture and Fisheries Modernization Act, all irrigated land and irrigable lands already covered by irrigation projects with firm funding commitments, and lands with existing or having the potential for growing high value crops so delineated and included within the SAFDZ shall not be converted until Feb. 9, 2003. This is provided that not more than 5 percent of the said lands located within the SAFDZ may be converted upon compliance with laws relating to land use conversion.

Reclassification of lands within the SAFDZ shall take into account the following conditions:

- The conversion of land use is consistent with the natural expansion of the municipality or locality, as contained in the approval physical framework and land use plan.
- The area to be converted in use is not the only remaining food production area of the community.
- The land use conversion shall not hamper the availability of irrigation to nearby farmlands.
- The areas with low productivity will be accorded priority for land use conversion; or, when the proposed project is supportive to agro-industrial development and will generate alternative livelihood opportunities for the affected community.

THE FULLERTON PLACE

A residential condominium in the heart of the metropolis

ROBINSONS Land Corp., one of the country's biggest and most dynamic real estate companies, has recently appointed Recio + Casas Architects to design a number of its residential condominium developments. Headed by its principal architects Bong Recio and Carmelo T. Casas, Recio + Casas Architects (RCA) is a reputable architectural firm whose designs dot the urban landscapes of most major Southeast Asian countries. Locally, they are the experts behind the design of triple A residential projects like the Pacific Plaza on Ayala Avenue and the Pacific Plaza Towers in Fort Bonifacio.

RCA's first design project for RLC is 25-story Fullerton Place, a major undertaking with a masterplan for four residential towers to be erected on a 13,000 sq. m site in the center of the metropolis. It is located on Aurora Boulevard in Cubao, Quezon City, and is accessible to both the LRT 2 and MRT lines. Also in close proximity are shopping malls like the Araneta Center and the country's prestigious universities—Ateneo, Miriam College and the University of the Philippines. According to Casas, The Fullerton Place will carry top-notch designs and features at very affordable prices. "The beauty of this project lies on its excellent features and designs culled from our previous works abroad," says Casas. "Nothing fancy, nothing faddish—just straightforward, solidly designed residences that reflect the simple tastes and pleasures of middle-income families."

ARCHITECT Carmelo Casas, right, shows the masterplan of The Fullerton Place to RLC general manager Danilo E. Ignacio, center, and project manager Roger Vinluan.

Major highlights

Casas stresses on some major highlights of the project. Says Casas: "Space is a primary element of our design. RLC, the developer was very generous in allocating 76 percent for open spaces and landscape areas, more than what you would find in other typical condominium projects." The entire Fullerton Place is ideally set back from the main street, Aurora Boulevard, so that the residents may be able to enjoy all the advantages of its central location.

Says Casas: "This spatial element will be able to subdue the noise coming from the major streets. There will be a wide entrance road, which runs through the wide tree-lined rotunda, situated in the center of the project. Ample distance will be provided between each building to allow the natural flow of light and ventilation.

"Residents will definitely be assured of pristine breathing space that is sorely lacking in this concrete jungle we now live in. Also, the convenience of the residents has been taken in to consideration. A portion of the ground floor of each building has been allotted for commercial spaces," adds Casas.

Unit design

Attention to simplicity and space are consistently carried out in the design of the units. "The regular unobstructed shape of the studio-type and the one-bedroom units will allow the owners to maximize the potential of their living spaces, where ceilings are freed of unattractive exposed beams," says Casas.

The Fullerton Place also has its own distinct brand of comfort and luxury, which its residents will enjoy. "Connecting the buildings is a three-story podium. On the second floor is where the Fullerton's parking spaces will be situated. The top level of the podium, a common area for all the buildings, is where well-appointed features and amenities will be found," explains Casas. These features and amenities include a lap pool, a gym, a kiddie pool and playground. "There are also special garden units, available on a limited basis, on this level where lucky unit owners are treated to their own landscaped garden," adds Casas.

BAYANIHAN IN HABITAT PROJECT

Members of the Bayanihan Philippine National Dance Company take time out from their busy schedules to participate in the Habitat for Humanity's construction site in Kalap, Caloocan City. The Bayanihan spent May 27, Bayanihan day, helping out in the construction of homes for the less fortunate members of society.

Developers elect new officers

TEOFISTO Guingona III and Jesus B. Atencio are leading the Subdivision and Housing Developers Association for fiscal year 2002-2003. They were elected chair and president, respectively, of the SHDA board of governors.

Elected as governors at large were Roy D. Calleja, Marilu M. Alferez, Bansan C. Choa, Willy J. Uy, Marcelino C. Mendoza, Manuel Colayco, Benirando Claudio, Fely T. Ramos, Lindah A. Tan and Romarico T. Alvarez.

Also elected were governors Ma. Teresa H. Pajarillo for Luzon, Luis N. Yu for Visayas and Francisco M. Soriano for Mindanao.

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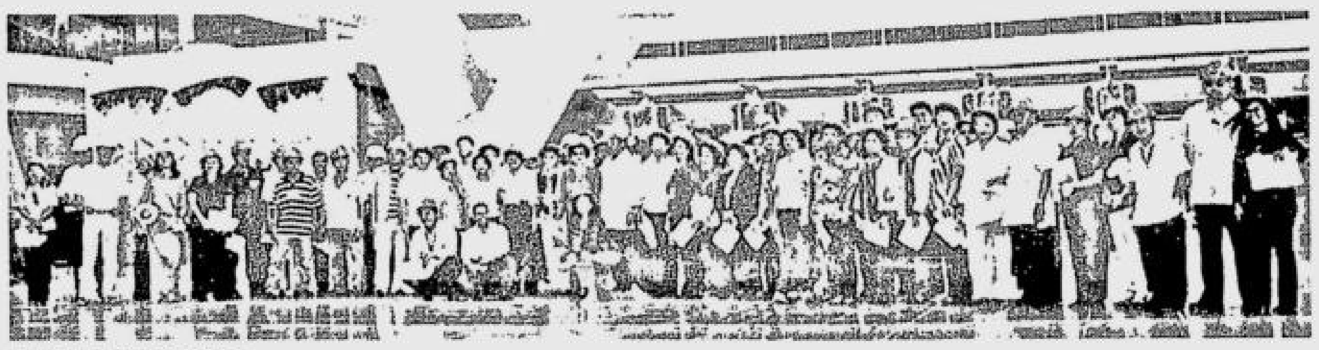

WALK-IN TOUR

Engineers from Manila International Airport Authority recently had a walk-in tour of the soon-to-open International Passenger Terminal 3. Ninoy Aquino International Airport IPT 3 will reflect the latest technology on the market for improving the standards of Philippine airports. With 90 percent of the work already completed, IPT 3 is on schedule for its December opening. Shown at the Departure Hall is the delegation of MIAA engineers.

Creba to gov't: Review water rehab slowdown

From p. B4

quires a fair price. And a reasonable increase in water rates—concomitant with improved delivery—is not only fair, but also necessary to discourage wasteful consumption.

"To our mind, the cogent issue is not only whether to improve water service or not, but also how to ease the burden of cost recovery on the part of the underprivileged citizenry. In this regard, a government subsidy scheme may be resorted to, in order to effect social pricing wherein the underprivileged would be charged relatively lower rates.

"Necessarily, such subsidy would require budgetary outlays which could further worsen the fiscal deficit—unless additional revenue generation measures are undertaken.

"For this purpose and for other vital social programs, Creba is presenting to government a package of revenue-generating measures so designed as not to further hurt the poor nor unduly constrict the local business sector.

"Among the measures are: 1) the legalization, franchising and taxation of *jueteng*, which could net for government at least P100 billion a year even, as it would enable regulation to protect bettors who are mostly the poor; 2) higher tariffs on imported nonessentials and luxury items such as jewelry and luxury cars could fetch some P2 billion; 3) increased tax rates on 'sin products' such as liquor and cigarettes, which may also serve to promote better health by compelling moderate consumption, could add another P50 billion; and, 4) when economic conditions shall have improved, government may impose higher idle lands tax and implement the finance department's plan to scrap, if not scale down, the fiscal incentives granted to foreign investors in the economic zones."

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MARA PAWNSHOP BR. of 2410-18 P. Gil St. Sta. Ana Manila. Auction Sale on **Aug. 12, 2002, Mon.** at 2:30 in the afternoon, respectively, Mar. 13-Apr. 12, 2002.
Sons of J. Lanuza,
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MARA PAWNSHOP I, II, III, IV and Comembo Br. of Makati City. Auction Sale on Aug. 12, 2002, Mon. at 10:30, 11:30, 1:30, 12:30 and 8:30 in the morning and on the afternoon. Respectively Mar. 13-Apr. 12, 2002. Sons of J. Lanuza, Auctioneer.

MI MARA PAWNSHOP of 251 Quirino Ave., Baclaran Paranaque, M.M. Auction Sale on **Aug. 12, 2002, Mon.** at 4:00 in the afternoon. Respectively, **Mar. 12-Apr. 12, 2002.**
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PHILIPPINE DEPOSIT INSURANCE CORPORATION

NOTICE TO DEPOSITORS OF THE CLOSED BANGKO RURAL NG MINALABAC (Camarines Sur), INC. (BRMI)

1. Starting August 6, 2002, the Philippine Deposit Insurance Corporation (PDIC) thru its duly authorized representatives shall receive claims for insured deposits maintained with the closed **Bangko Rural ng Minalabac (Camarines Sur), Inc.**

2. Depositors are requested to proceed directly to the designated payoff sites on the dates indicated in the table below. Receiving and processing of claims are scheduled from Monday to Friday during office hours.

BRMI Office/ Branch	Payoff Site	Duration of Payoff
Minalabac, Head Office	*BRMI – Minalabac, Head Office* *San Francisco, Minalabac* *Camarines Sur*	August 6 to 13, 2002
Sipocot Branch	*BRMI – Sipocot Branch* *Poblacion, Sipocot* *Camarines Sur*	August 6 to 21, 2002

After the said dates, all depositors can file their claims personally at the PDIC office from Monday to Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., or by mail addressed to –

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3. Depositors are advised to present the following requirements to our representatives when filing their claims:

   a. Original evidence of deposit such as Savings Passbook, Certificate of Time Deposit or latest bank statement and unused check; and
   b. Latest identification document (ID) bearing the depositor's signature

   Other documents may be required by our representatives in the course of their processing of claims filed.

4. Pursuant to the provisions of R.A. 3591, as amended, the prescriptive date (last day) for filing of claims for insured deposits in the closed Bangko Rural ng Minalabac (Camarines Sur), Inc. is on **December 23, 2003.** After **December 23, 2003,** PDIC as insurer, shall no longer accept any claim for insured deposits maintained with the said closed bank.

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LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the heirs of the late PASCUAL C. VINOYA executed an extrajudicial settlement and partition with waiver and renunciation of rights and Special Power of Attorney for TCT No. P-2723 Bukidnon on June 10, 2002 as per Doc.No. 163 Page No. 34 Book No. 18 Series of 2002 of Notary Public Julita Aniñgat of Pasay City.
PDI-July30, Aug.6&13, 2002

PERSONAL

PRAYER TO ST. ANTHONY
O Holy St. Anthony, gentlest of Saints, your love for God and charity for His creatures, made you worthy, when on earth, to possess miraculous powers. Miracles waited on your word, which you were ever ready to speak for those in trouble or anxiety. Encouraged by this thought, I implore of you to obtain for me (request). The answer to my prayer may require a miracle, even so, you are the Saint of Miracles. O gentle and loving St. Anthony, whose heart was ever full of human sympathy, whisper my petition into the ears of the Sweet Infant Jesus, who loved to be folded in your arms; and the gratitude of my heart will ever be yours. (Thank you very much for the graces.)

NOVENA PRAYER
O Immaculate Virgin Mary, Mother of our Lord Jesus and our Mother, penetrated with the most likely confidence, in thy all-powerful and never failing intercession, manifested so often through the Miraculous Medal, with thy loving trustful children. Implore thee to obtain for us, the grace and favors we ask during the Novena, if they be beneficial to our immortal souls, and the souls for whom we pray. Thou knowest, O Mary, how our souls have been the sanctuaries of thy Son who hits inequity. Obtain for us then a deep hatred of sin and that purity of heart which will attach us to God alone so that our every thought, word and deed may tend to His greater glory. Obtain also for us a spirit of prayer and self-denial that we may recover by penance what we lost by sin and at length attain to that blessed abode where thou art the Queen of angels and of men. Amen.

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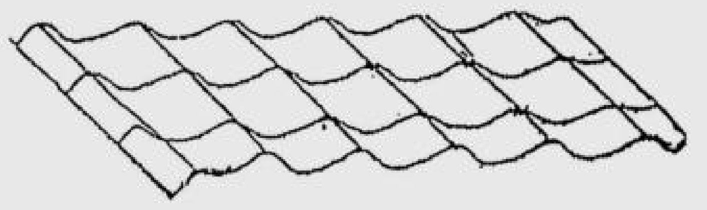
The Roofing Sheet design as substantially shown is registered as Design Patent No. 7729 and copyright registration NO. H98-184 in favor of NATY DY. Said Design Patent grants the owner, NATY DY the exclusive rights to use or sell for the purpose of the trade and industry all roofing sheets bearing said design as illustrated below:



The proliferation of unauthorized copies, identical or substantial to the design shown has been recently discovered in the market. The public is therefore forewarned of any action the patentee may initiate against the manufacturers, of said unauthorized copies including administrative, civil and criminal actions from Design Patent Infringement.

BELO GOZON
PAREL ASUNCION & LUCILA
Counsel for Naty Dy
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(PDI--August 6, 2002)

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DEATH ANNOUNCEMENT
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DEATH ANNIVERSARY
REQUIEMS
FREE OBIT DESIGN

"a barrio boy has gone home to rest"

ATTY. CONSTANTE A. ESPEJO

**of Barrio Arangin, Sta. Lucia Ilocos Sur
and Marikina City**

**USAFFE, Philippine Scout, World War 2 Veteran
MNSA, Lt. Col. Reserve, Former Director
Department of Finance**

Passed away on August 3, 2002

His wife **Reynalda Gomez Espejo** and his children and grandchildren **Dean Abraham** and **Maritoni** with **Justin** and **Engr. Delfin** and **Joy** with **Lance** request everyone to pray for his soul.

His remains lie in state at the Mount Carmel Church (Multipurpose Hall), New Manila, Quezon City.

Interment will be on Thursday, August 8, 2002 at Loyola Memorial Park, Marikina City after the Necrological Mass.

Si

FRANCISCO "Tito" SALVACION

ay mapayapang sumakabilang buhay
noong Agosto 4, 2002-08-05
sa edad na 59.

Ang kanyang iniwang asawang si **Aida**, mga anak na sina **George** at **Avic**, **Noel**, **Irene** at **Arnel**, **Ella** at **Ceazar**, at **Mundeng**; mga apo na sina **Jomar**, **Kris**, **Kevin**, **Claire**, **Ayrton**, **Angel**, **Steff**, **Bernadette**, **Elan** at **Frances**; mga kapatid at mga kaibigan ay nagpapasalamat sa lahat na nananalangin para sa kanyang kaluluwa.

Ang labi ni Mang Tito ay kasalukuyang nakahimlay sa Our Lady of Lourdes Shrine, Retiro St. corner Mayon St., La Loma, Quezon City. Ang libing ay gaganapin sa Agosto 10 (Sabado), 2:00 ng hapon sa North Cemetery ng Maynila.

---

*The time is here for me to leave this life.
I have done my best in the race, I have run the full distance,
and I have kept the faith. And now, there waiting for me is the
victory prize of being put right with God.*
2 Timothy 4:6-8

In Loving Memory of

Edgardo C. Rabuy

who joined his Creator on 06 August 1997

The Holy Sacrifice of the Mass shall be offered at the following churches:

August 5	
6:30 AM	Sacred Heart Parish, Morning Breeze Subdivision, Kaloocan City
7:30 AM	Santuario de San Antonio Parish, Forbes Park, Makati City
12:15 PM	Santuario de San Antonio Parish, Forbes Park, Makati City
August 6	
5:30 AM	Immaculate Conception Parish, Marikina City
6:00 AM	Holy Family Church, Bo. Kapitolyo, Pasig City
6:00 AM	San Jose Manggagawa, Barangka, Marikina
7:00 AM	Our Lady of the Abandoned Parish, Sta. Ana, Manila
7:00 AM	Antipolo Cathedral, Antipolo City
7:15 AM	Sto. Nino de Paz Chapel, Greenbelt, Makati City
12:00 NN	Parish of the Holy Sacrifice, UP Diliman, Q.C.
12:15 PM	Don Bosco Church, Pasay Road, Makati City
12:15 PM	Santuario de San Antonio Parish, Forbes Park, Makati City
5:00 PM	PGH Immaculate Conception Chapel, Taft Avenue, Manila
6:00 PM	Santuario de San Antonio Parish, Forbes Park, Makati City
6:00 PM	Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Church, Project 6, Q.C.
6:00 PM	St. Jerome Church, Alabang, Muntinlupa City
6:30 PM	St. James the Greater Parish, Ayala Alabang Village, Muntinlupa City
6:00 AM	St. Joseph's Church, Baltimore, Maryland, USA
8:00 AM	St. Anne's Church, Union City, California, USA
August 8	
8:15 AM	Our Lady of the Rosary Church, Union City, California, USA

On the occasion of his fifth death anniversary, join us as we remember the gift that was "Tatay", as we celebrate his life, and as we affirm our belief that he is now safely home with our Heavenly Father. We request readers, relatives and friends to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

The Family and Friends of the late

ARTHUR ROMULO R. MESINA

*who passed away in the Grace of our Lord
on July 18, 2002*

Sincerely thank all those who offered Masses and Prayers, sent flowers and messages of sympathy, gave generous gifts, visited and kept vigil, attended the funeral rites, extended their support and services in countless ways, and who condoled and comforted us in our hour of bereavement. May you all be blessed.

"He rests... he lives... he is free."

Emilio Grey Horrilleno, MD

U.P. Medicine Class '42

July 16, 1918 - August 4, 2002

He is survived by his wife **Estrella**; children **Elizabeth**, **Evelynne** and **Ellery** and grandchildren **Miguel**, **Carlos**, **Paolo**, **Denise** and **Christina**.

He will lie in state at the Malate Church.

Cremation tentatively scheduled August 8, 2002.

DR. TOLENTINO GATDULA TORRES, D.D.

*Passed away in the Grace of our Lord on August 5, 2002
at the age of 95.*

His loving wife **JUANITA** (†); children **TERESITA** (†) & **PACIFICO CATIPON**, **JOSEFINA**, **JOSE**, **CECILIA** & **TEOFILO AGUIRRE**, **SALOME**, **ROGELIO** & **AURORA**, **JAIME** & **CONSORCIA**, **DONNA**, **REMEDIOS** & **ARTHUR ESTRERA** and **EMMANUEL**; grandchildren and great grandchildren request the readers to please pray for his soul.

His remains lie in state at Fatima Chapel located at the University Hills Subdivision, Caloocan City.

Interment will be announced later.

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Whoever finds his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it.

Matthew 10:39

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Camp General Emilio Aguinaldo
Quezon City

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) Housing Board invites all legitimate property developers duly registered with the Housing and Land Use Regulatory Board (HLURB) to participate in a joint venture arrangement for the development of a 20-hectare property at Camp Riego De Dios Tanza, Cavite.

Pertinent documents and information are available at the Housing Development Division, Office of the Special Service, AFP, Camp Aguinaldo, Quezon City. Deadline for the submission of Letter of Intent is **September 6, 2002.**

The AFP Housing Board reserves the right to reject any or all offers without offering any reason, waive any required formality therein. The Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) assumes no obligation to compensate or indemnify the proponent for any expenses or losses that may be incurred in the preparation of the proposals, nor does it guarantee that an award will be made.

(Sgd.) **ROLANDO N FLORIA**
Major General AFP
Chairman, PEAC
AFP Housing Board

(PDI - Aug. 3, 6 & 12, 2002)

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APPLICATION FOR AUTHORITY TO OPERATE AS A FINANCING COMPANY

NOTICE AND ORDER

Notice is hereby given that the above-named corporation has filed an application for a Certificate of Authority to operate as a financing company pursuant to Sections 2, 4, and 5 of the Rules and Regulations to Implement the Provisions of R.A. 8556 (The Financing Company Act of 1998).

The applicant's capital structure is as follows:

Authorized Capital Stock	P 10,000,000.00
Subscribed Capital Stock	10,000,000.00
Paid-up Capital Stock	10,000,000.00

According to the papers/documents presented, the following persons are the directors/officers of the corporation:

Name		Position
Minda Alano	-	President
Dulce Amor Fillaro	-	Vice President
Nielsa Alano	-	Director
Felicisimo Alano	-	Director
Noel Dulay	-	Director
Emilia Pelaez	-	Director
Nenita Dinglasan	-	Treasurer

This Notice and Order shall be published in a newspaper of general circulation in the Philippines once a week for two (2) consecutive weeks and shall be simultaneously posted in a public and conspicuous place in the City/Municipality where the office of the company is proposed to be located and in the office of the Commission.

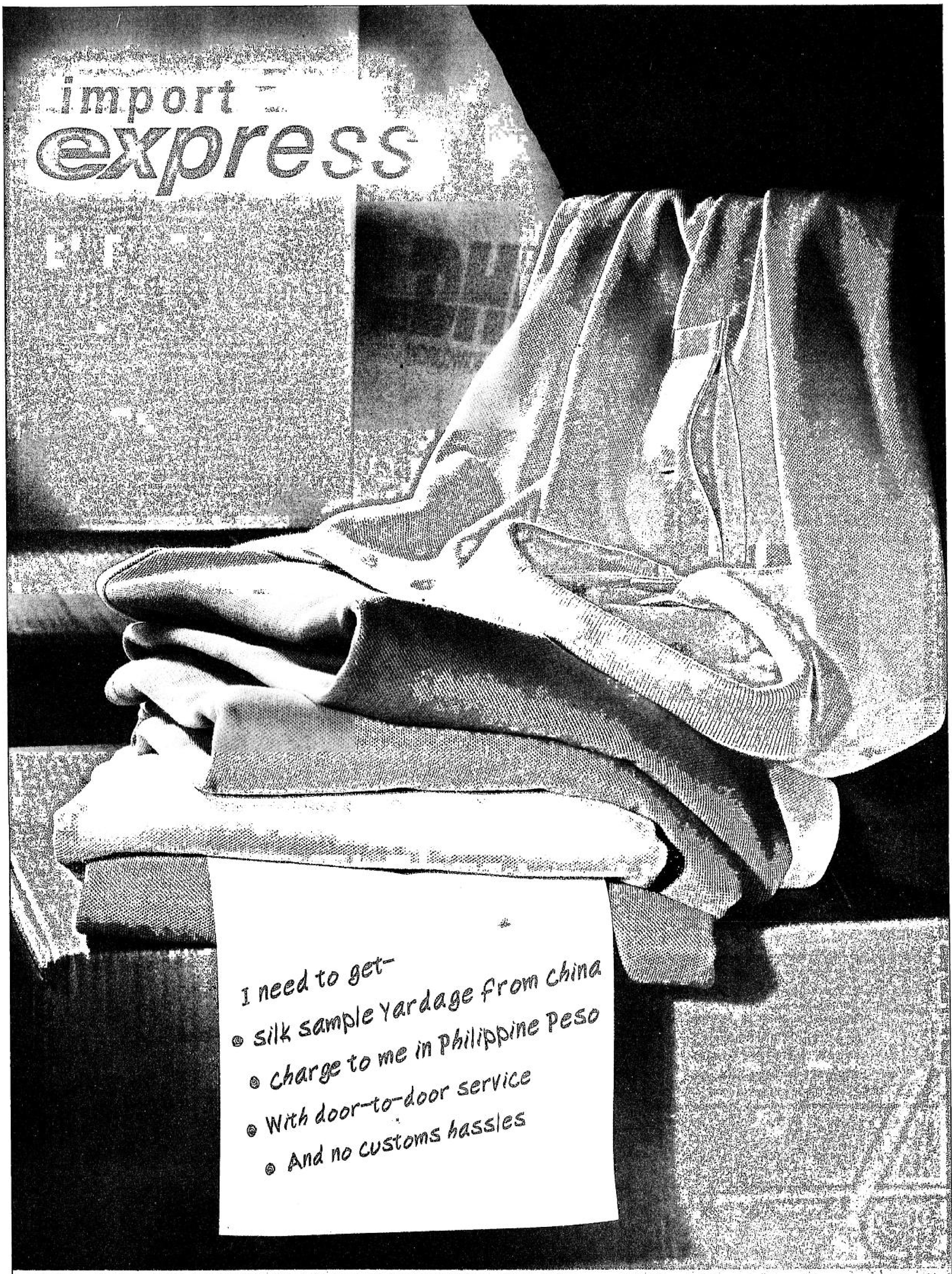
Any interested party may oppose the application in writing personally or through counsel within two (2) weeks after the last publication of the Notice. If the Commission finds that the requirements of R.A. 8556, the implementing Rules and Regulations and other pertinent laws have been complied with and no valid reason exists for the disapproval of the subject application, the Commission shall take appropriate action on said application.

SO ORDERED.

August 1, 2002.

(Sgd.) **JUSTINA F. CALLANGAN**
Director

(PDI--Aug. 6 & 13, 2002)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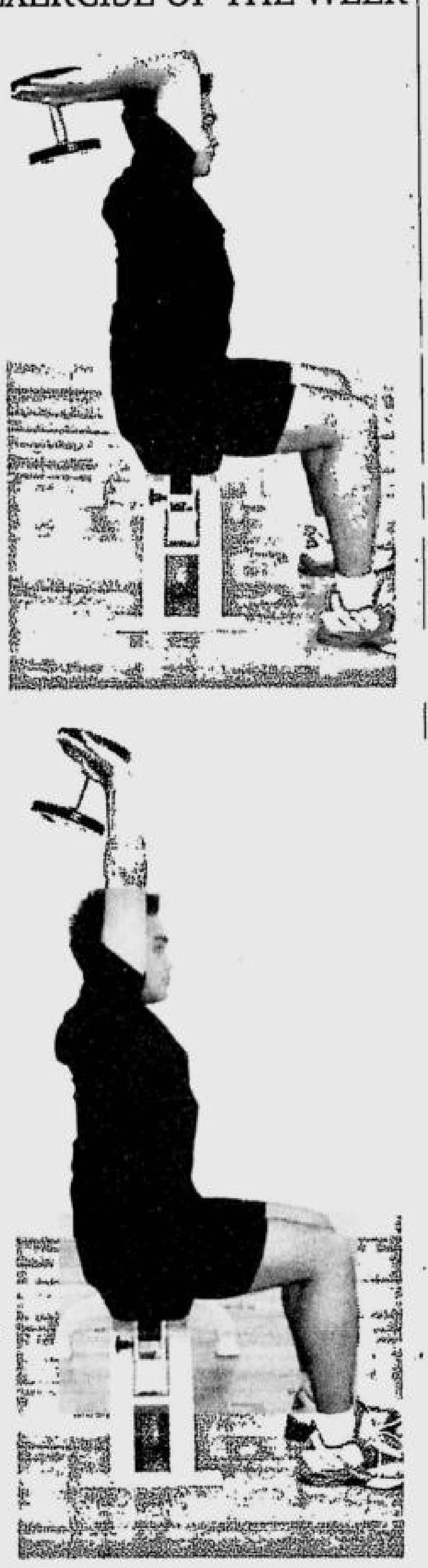
LIFESTYLE

Editor Chelo Banal-Formoso

Weight-loss insights from big-time 'losers'

EXERCISE OF THE WEEK



Overhead triceps press

THIS exercise strengthens the back of the arms (triceps), which tends to become soft and flabby in most women.

Equipment:
Dumbbells and a gym stool.

Exercise technique:

1. Sit on a gym stool.
2. Hold a dumbbell with both hands and place it above and behind your head, elbows straight.
3. Bend elbows, lowering dumbbell behind but close to the head.
4. Keep the shoulders relaxed; don't let them hunch upward.
5. Avoid moving the elbows; keep them near the sides of your head as lower and raise the dumbbell.

Performance tips:

1. Keep elbows slightly bent, not locked, when you straighten your arms.
2. When arms straighten to lift the weight, pull in the abdominal muscles to avoid arching the lower back.
3. Hold the dumbbell securely, especially when it is overhead. The last thing you want is to drop it on your head or toes.
4. Keep knees slightly bent to avoid overarching the back.
5. If this bothers your back, stop doing the exercise.

Repetitions:
Eight to 15 repetitions; one to three sets.

AS many people have sadly found out, losing weight is only the first half of the battle of the bulge. Keeping it off is a totally different story. Yet, it is not impossible, as the participants of the largest ongoing study on successful "losers" have proven.

The 8-year-old project called the National Weight Control Registry (NWCR) is the brainchild of Dr. James Hill of the University of Colorado and Dr. Rena Wing of the University of Pittsburgh. What is unique about this research study is that it is not trying to prove that one weight-loss method works over another. The researchers simply ask the participants to tell them how they lost weight and how they have maintained such weight loss over the years. They hope to gather data that will inspire other people to do the same.

Members of the club

There are currently 3,000-plus members of this "losers" club. The only requirement to become a part of the study is to have lost a minimum of 30 pounds and kept it off for at least one year. On average, though, the participants have lost 66 pounds and maintained that weight loss for over six years. Their average weight dropped from 220 to 154 pounds and their average Body Mass Index or BMI dropped from 32 to 25.

How to join the registry

Eighty percent of the current participants are women. Ninety-seven percent are white. So the researchers are looking for more men and minorities to get a clearer picture of how people maintain weight loss. If you have a weight loss story to tell, you can join the registry by calling 1- 800-606-NWCR. There is no fee to pay but there is also no compensation. The only thing you need to do is honestly answer a lot of questions once a year.

How do they know you are telling the truth?

You may have to provide before-and-after pictures and verification from doctors, weight-loss counselors and other reliable individuals to authenticate your success.

What motivated them to lose weight?

According to experts, people have to experience a "psychologically significant event" before they will be motivated to make any major change in their life. This is also true for weight loss.

Nearly 77 percent of the participants reported experiencing a "trigger event" that motivated them to lose weight. Men usually reported a medical trigger like sleep apnea, low back pain, constant fatigue, aching legs, a heart attack, or "my doctor told me to lose weight." Women were more prone to be stimulated by an emotional trigger like "my husband left me and my lawyer said it was because I was fat." Eleven percent said the trigger was seeing themselves in a mirror or photograph. Twenty-five percent had a lifestyle trigger like "I was going to attend my high school reunion" or "it was my 25th wedding anniversary."

How they lost weight

What they have found so far, according to Hill, is that the people in the study lost weight "using every way known to man." Whatever method they used (whether healthy or not), 90 percent made significant changes in their diet and exercise habits.

Fifty-five percent joined a formal weight-loss program like Weight Watchers, Jenny Craig, etc. Forty-five percent did it on their own. The most common strategy was to eat less of certain types of food. The second most common strategy was to eat all kinds of food but to eat smaller portions.

Twenty percent used low-calorie liquid diets like Slim-Fast; 4.3 percent used weight loss medications (prescription and over-the-counter varieties); 1.3 percent underwent gastric bypass surgery.

If at first you don't succeed, try again

Ninety-one percent of the participants had spent years losing and gaining weight until they finally found what was successful for them. In fact, the average "recycled" weight lost and gained was about 270 pounds. The lesson to be learned here is that instead of viewing yourself as a failure each time you gain weight again after losing it, think like Thomas Edison who said he was not disappointed that he had "failed" 1,000 times in trying to make the perfect light bulb because he had learned 1,000 ways not to do it. Or as Hill observes, the participants "tried all the wrong ways until they figured out the right ways."

WELL AND GOOD

Tina Juan

Your genes don't doom you to be fat

Although research indicates that genetics plays a big role in whether you will be overweight or not, these people have fought back and won. According to Wing, the participants prove that you shouldn't look at your parents and say: "I'm destined to be overweight and there's nothing I can do about it."

Many had been obese most of their lives. Forty-six percent said they were overweight as children (before 11 years old). More than 25 percent said they became obese between the ages of 12-18.

Forty-six percent had one parent who was overweight and 27 percent had two parents who were overweight.

It's never too late to lose weight

The average age of the participants is 45 years old so don't lose hope if you think you can't lose weight because you are over 40. Half of the participants are between 34 and 55.

Four common behaviors

Even though the participants took many roads in their journey to lose weight, they have four similarities in the way they maintain their weight loss.

- Eating a low-fat, high carbohydrate diet.
- Exercising for one hour every day.
- Eating breakfast almost every day.
- Close self-monitoring.

Low fat, high carbohydrates

The researchers were surprised to find out that no matter what type of diet the participants used to lose weight, the overwhelming majority used a low-fat, high-carbohydrate diet (on the average it was 24 percent fat, 56 percent carbohydrates and 19 percent protein) to maintain their weight loss. Less than 1 percent reported using a high-fat, low-carb, high-protein diet to keep the pounds away.

Carbohydrates were defined as high fiber foods like whole grains, fruits and vegetables. More than 60 percent reported eating smaller portions and eating more fruits and vegetables.

Consumer Reports did its own survey of 8,000 people who lost at least 10 percent of body weight and kept it off for at least one year (half the participants kept the weight off for five years) and the majority were eating high-fiber grains like whole-wheat bread, oatmeal and brown rice.

Exercise

Based on their findings, Hill says, "It is possible to maintain weight loss without physical activity but it is rare." Only 9 percent of the participants did not exercise regularly. Ninety-one percent engaged in some type of regular exercise to keep their weight under control.

On the average, they burned about 2,800

WEIGHT-LOSS/ p.C3

ILLUSTRATION: STEPH BRAVO

> People have to experience a psychologically significant event before they'll be motivated to make any major change in their life

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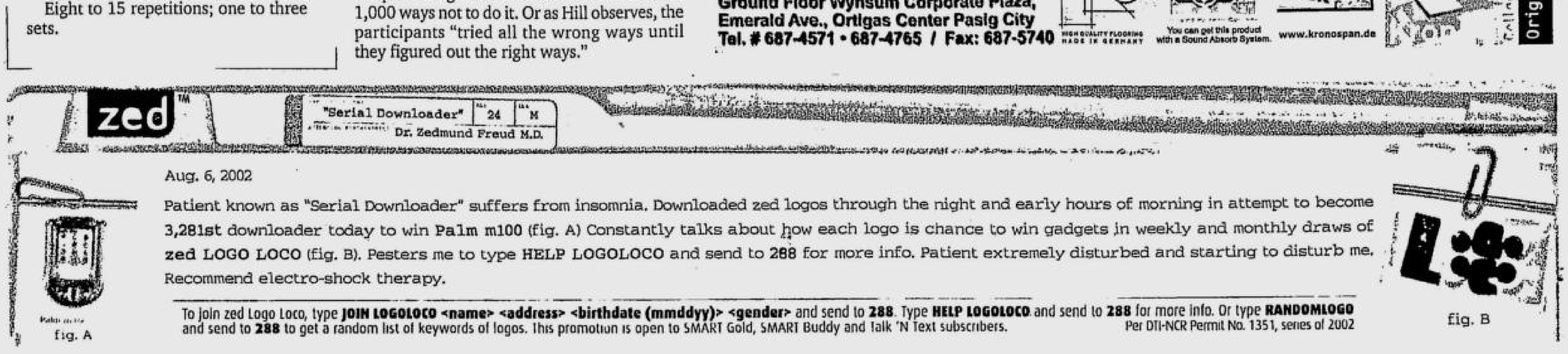

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Aug. 6, 2002

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fig. A

fig. B

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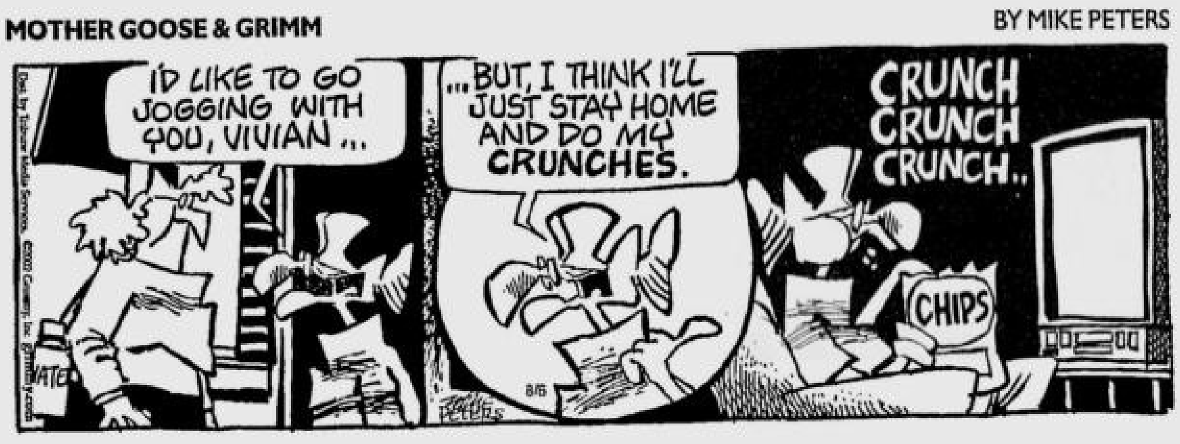
Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 1351, series of 2002

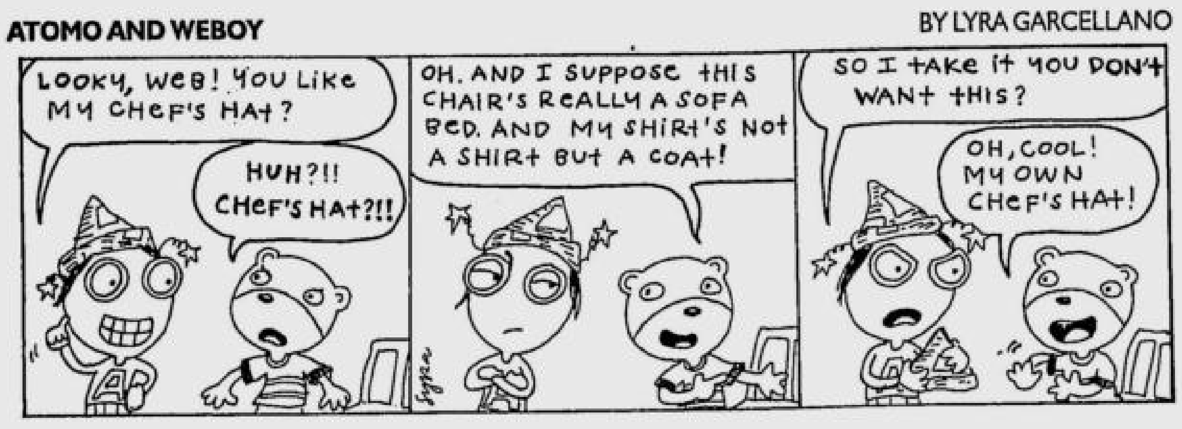
MOTHER GOOSE & GRIMM

BY MIKE PETERS


I'D LIKE TO GO JOGGING WITH YOU, VIVIAN ...
...BUT, I THINK I'LL JUST STAY HOME AND DO MY CRUNCHES.
CRUNCH CRUNCH CRUNCH..
CHIPS
8/5

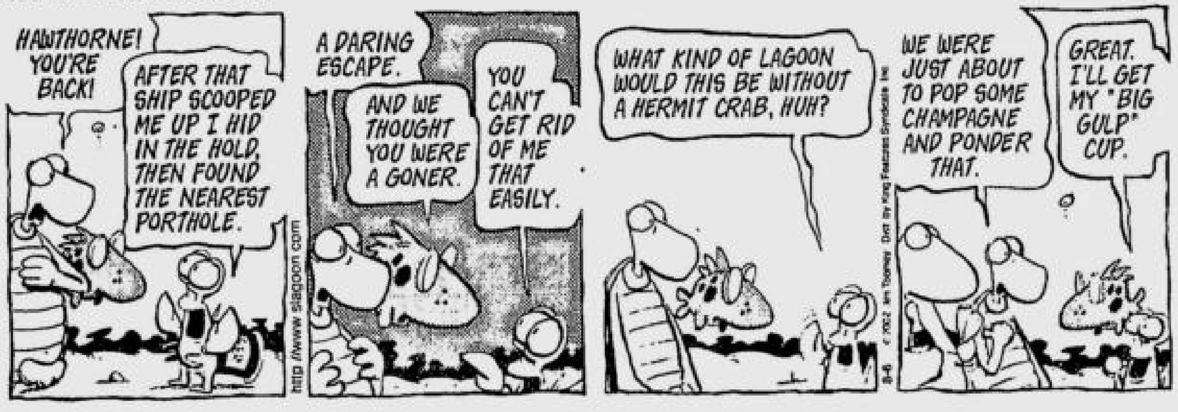
ATOMO AND WEBOY

BY LYRA GARCELLANO


LOOKY, WEB! YOU LIKE MY CHEF'S HAT?
HUH?!! CHEF'S HAT?!!
OH. AND I SUPPOSE THIS CHAIR'S REALLY A SOFA BED. AND MY SHIRT'S NOT A SHIRT BUT A COAT!
SO I TAKE IT YOU DON'T WANT THIS?
OH, COOL! MY OWN CHEF'S HAT!

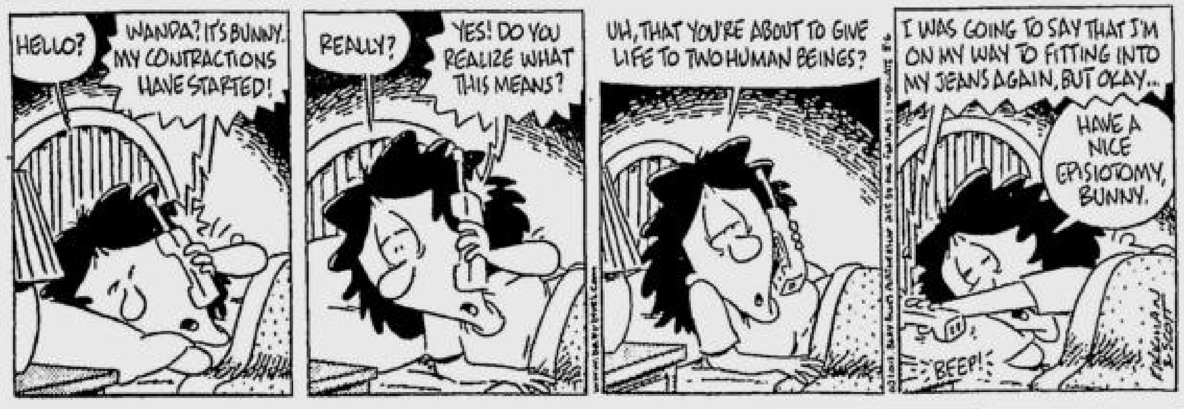
SHERMAN'S LAGOON

BY JIM TOOMEY


HAWTHORNE! YOU'RE BACK!
AFTER THAT SHIP SCOOPED ME UP I HID IN THE HOLD, THEN FOUND THE NEAREST PORTHOLE.
A DARING ESCAPE.
AND WE THOUGHT YOU WERE A GONER.
YOU CAN'T GET RID OF ME THAT EASILY.
WHAT KIND OF LAGOON WOULD THIS BE WITHOUT A HERMIT CRAB, HUH?
WE WERE JUST ABOUT TO POP SOME CHAMPAGNE AND PONDER THAT.
GREAT. I'LL GET MY "BIG GULP" CUP.
http://www.slagoon.com

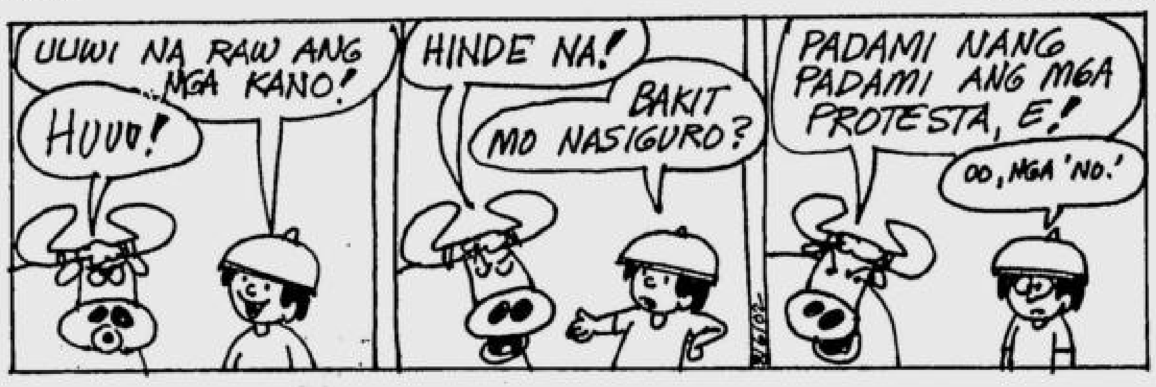
BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT


HELLO?
WANDA? IT'S BUNNY. MY CONTRACTIONS HAVE STARTED!
REALLY?
YES! DO YOU REALIZE WHAT THIS MEANS?
UH, THAT YOU'RE ABOUT TO GIVE LIFE TO TWO HUMAN BEINGS?
I WAS GOING TO SAY THAT I'M ON MY WAY TO FITTING INTO MY JEANS AGAIN, BUT OKAY...
HAVE A NICE EPISIOTOMY, BUNNY.
BEEP!

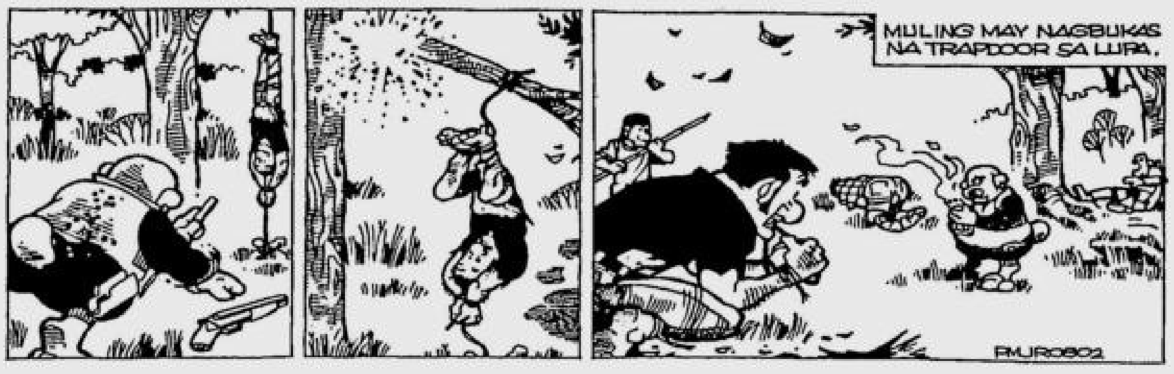
A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA


UUWI NA RAW ANG MGA KANO!
HUUU!
HINDE NA!
BAKIT MO NASIGURO?
PADAMI NANG PADAMI ANG MGA PROTESTA, E!
OO, MGA 'NO.'

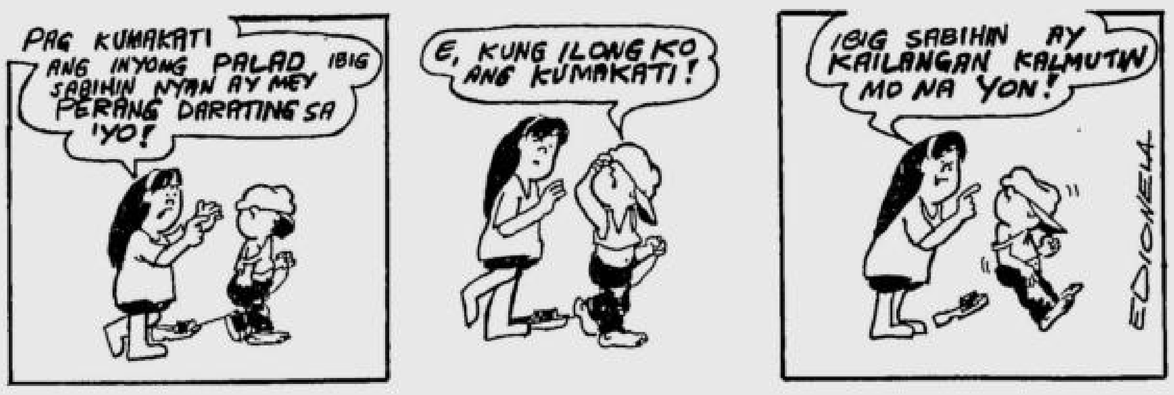
PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR


MULING MAY NAGBUKAS NA TRAPDOOR SA LUPA.
PMJR0802

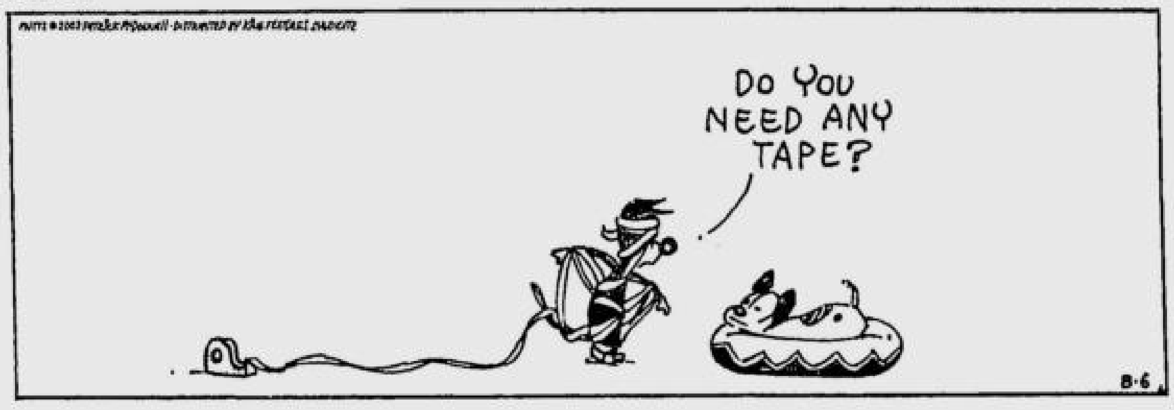
SIMO

BY EDGAR DIONELA


PAG KUMAKATI ANG INYONG PALAD IBIG SABIHIN NYAN AY MEY PERANG DARATING SA 'YO!
E, KUNG ILONG KO ANG KUMAKATI!
IBIG SABIHIN AY KAILANGAN KALMUTIN MO NA YON!
EDIONELA

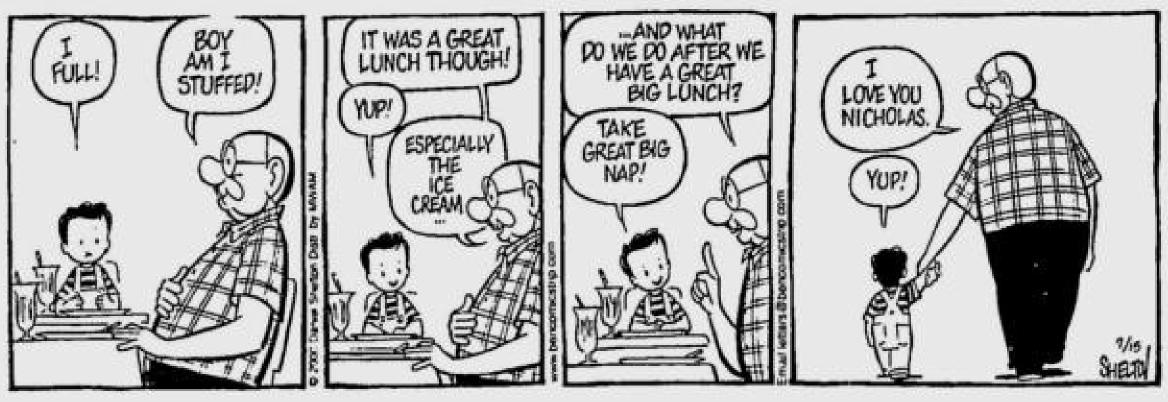
MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNEL


DO YOU NEED ANY TAPE?
8·6

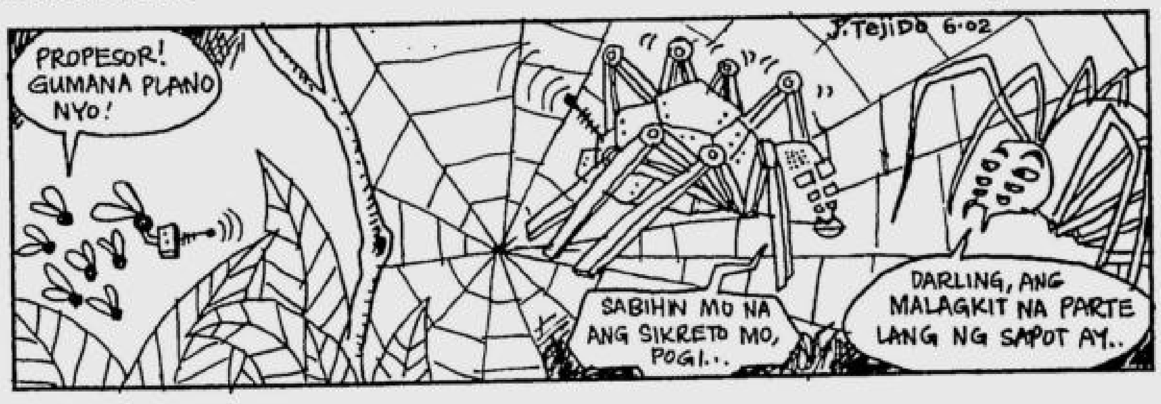
BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON


I FULL!
BOY AM I STUFFED!
IT WAS A GREAT LUNCH THOUGH!
YUP!
ESPECIALLY THE ICE CREAM ...
...AND WHAT DO WE DO AFTER WE HAVE A GREAT BIG LUNCH?
TAKE GREAT BIG NAP!
I LOVE YOU NICHOLAS.
YUP!
www.bencomicstrip.com
SHELTON

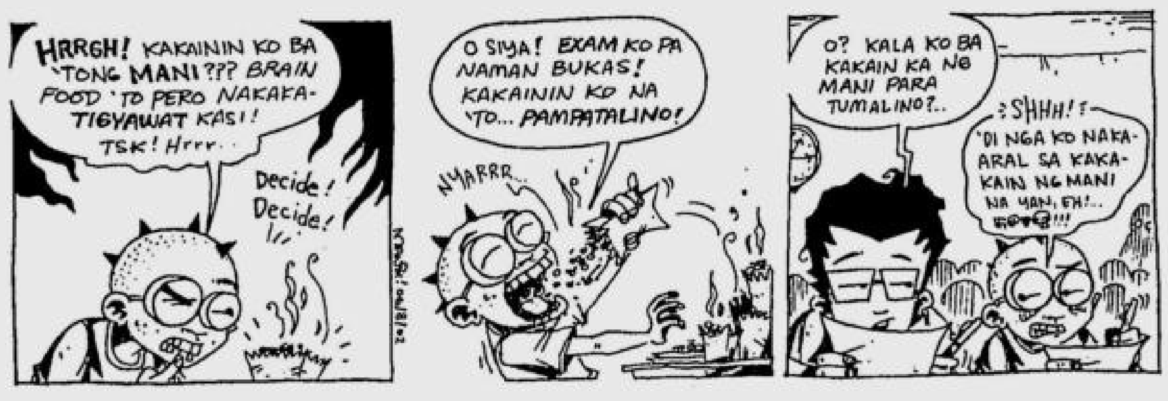
MIKROKOSMOS

BY JOMIKE TEJIDO


J. TEJIDO 6·02
PROPESOR! GUMANA PLANO NYO!
SABIHIN MO NA ANG SIKRETO MO, POGI..
DARLING, ANG MALAGKIT NA PARTE LANG NG SAPOT AY..

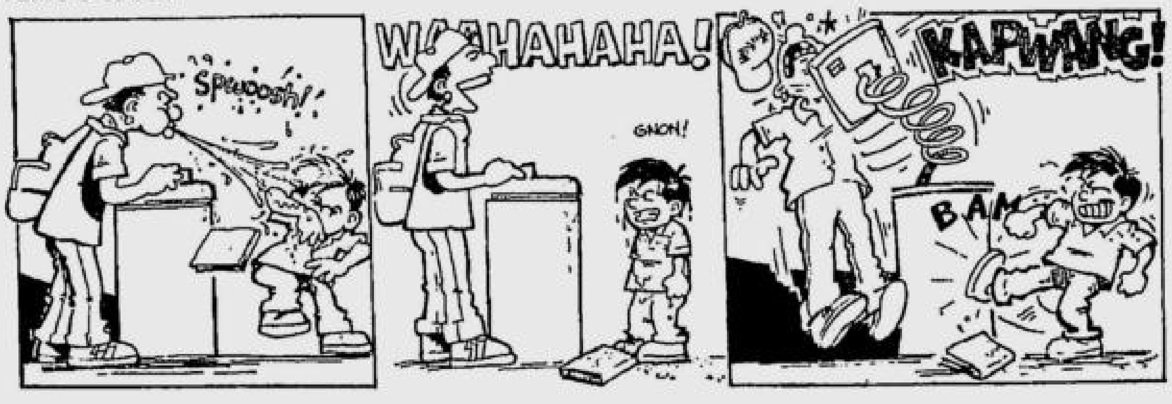
KIKO MACHINE

BY MANIX ABRERA


HRRGH! KAKAININ KO BA 'TONG MANI??? BRAIN FOOD 'TO PERO NAKAKA-TIGYAWAT KASI! TSK! Hrrr..
Decide! Decide!
O SIYA! EXAM KO PA NAMAN BUKAS! KAKAININ KO NA 'TO... PAMPATALINO!
NYARRR...
O? KALA KO BA KAKAIN KA NG MANI PARA TUMALINO?..
SHHH!
'DI NGA KO NAKA-ARAL SA KAKA-KAIN NG MANI NA YAN, EH!..

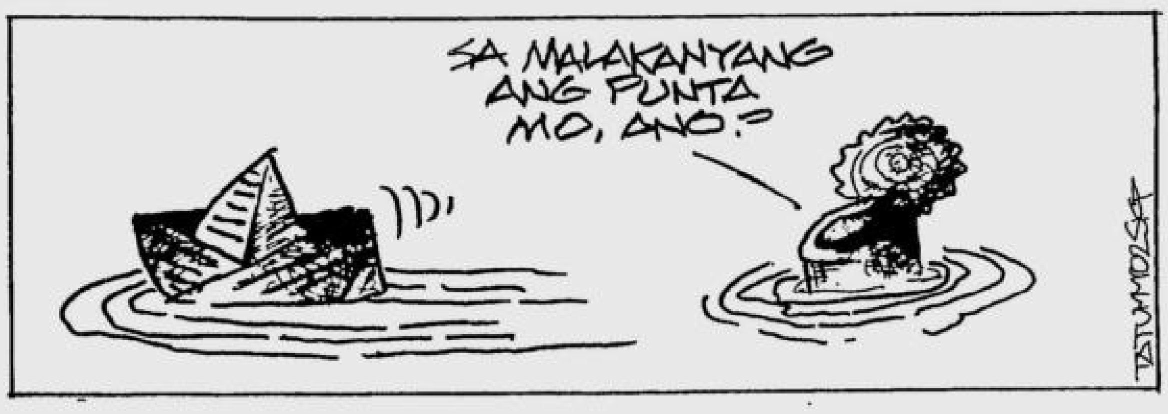
GENG'S GAMES

BY AMIEL RUFO


SPWOOSH!
WAHAHAHA!
GNOH!
KAPWANG!
BAM

TULDOK

BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING


SA MALAKANYANG ANG PUNTA MO, ANO?
TATUMOLSA

HOROSCOPE

BY EUGENIA LAST

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Robert Mitchum, Andy Warhol, Lucille Ball, Stepfanie Kramer
Happy Birthday: Added responsibilities may be your calling this year. Be smart and summon the help of others. This can be a progressive year for you especially if you also end up taking care of someone else's personal papers and financial matters. You will be able to deal with issues that arise efficiently. Your numbers are 8, 12, 15, 28, 35, 44

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Don't let a couple of setbacks at home daunt you. A move or a change in your current setup is evident and necessary in order to eliminate the troubles you have been facing. Deal with each issue and don't bend to the pressure.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): You should be out doing things with friends or planning a social event. Put yourself first and refuse to let anyone make you feel guilty today.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Memories may come back to haunt you. You need to stay calm and refuse to get drawn into family arguments. Focus on your work.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): You may want to hold off judging others or a situation you are facing. Chances are pretty good that you are overreacting or you don't have all the facts. Reevaluate your own motives.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Your intuitive ideas will lead you in new directions. You are likely to become nervous and restless if you don't find something to do that sparks your intellectual curiosity. Greater communication can be expected.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Renewed friendships will bring back memories today. You'll benefit through the company you keep. You will be able to expand your circle of friends. Your open-mindedness will draw others to you.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): You'll be ambitious and reluctant to stop anything short of success, which could be a disappointment. Your heart and soul will be poured into your accomplishments, making it easy to neglect some of the personal issues in your life.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): You will have plenty of willpower and you'll be able to do whatever it takes to be your best. Get out and meet people in a position to raise your profile.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Realize that you can't do everything for everyone. Use your added discipline to accomplish your own goals. Don't let other people's demands depress you.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Put an end to a relationship that has become more trouble than it's worth. Power struggles are likely to develop at work. Do your job well you'll have nothing to worry about.

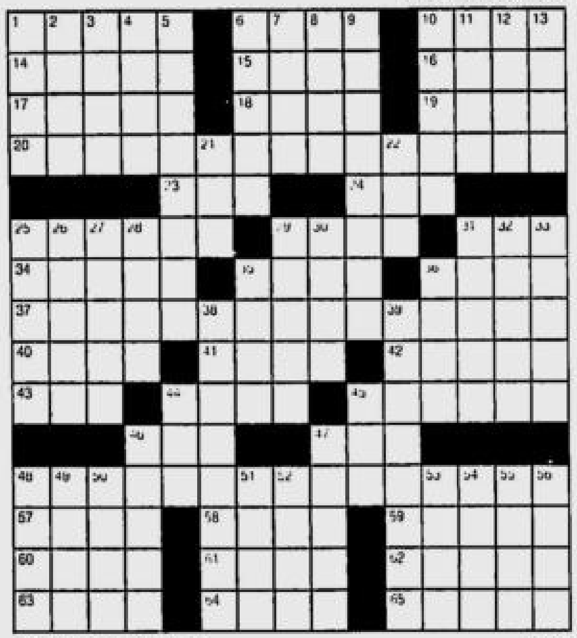
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Opportunities for work will surface. You will get along well with your colleagues. Emotional instability will work against you if you let your troubles surface at work.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): You can form a stable and secure relationship with someone you care about today. This is a time to reflect and remember all the good things from your past. If you aren't in a relationship, it's a great day to meet new people.

Birthday Baby: You will be fastidious about everything. You will strive to be perfect in every way. You will always want to be first and won't settle for anything less.

DAILY CROSSWORD

TMSPuzzles@aol.com



By Philip J. Anderson
Portland, OR
8/6/02

ACROSS
1 Enjoyed
6 Shear
10 Chinese port on Korea Bay
14 Maxim
15 U2 singer
16 School founded in 1440
17 Crevasse pinnacle
18 British peer
19 Sign gas
20 Bear
23 "__ Miniver"
24 Brooks or Blanc
25 Patriot Hale
29 Lost traction
31 J. Major and A. Blair
34 Bide one's time
35 Oil org.
36 Region
37 Bear
40 Art Deco designer
41 Harmless cysts
42 Mazda model
43 Irish golfer Smyth
44 Dryer residue
45 Tarzan, e.g.
46 Broadcast
47 Hockey great Bobby
48 Bear
57 Tenant's payment
58 Skunk River's state
59 "Home Alone" co-star
60 Boleyn or Bancroft
61 Russian refusal
62 U.A.E. rulers
63 Pear choice
64 No longer here
65 American Beauties

DOWN
1 Young lady
2 Logical beginning?
3 Maiden or Marx
4 Holy smoke!
5 Reduce by 10 percent
6 Certain radio operators
7 Bread quantity
8 Cross letters
9 Art of argumentation
10 Ivan of tennis
11 Sch. on the Rio Grande
12 Means of access
13 Part of A.D.
21 European eagle
22 Conducted
25 Dubbed
26 In the know
27 Small pies
28 Walk on the wild side?
29 Exhausted
30 Fewer
31 King of Troy
32 Former D.C. hostess Perle
33 Beelzebub
35 Unwrap
36 French girlfriend
38 Baton action
39 Unsuitable
44 Designer Claiborne
45 Biblical boat
46 Nahuatl speaker
47 Deliver an address
48 Snatch
49 City near Lake Tahoe
50 Wayside stops
51 Cellist Ma
52 Writer Wister
53 Sample tape
54 Sister of Osiris
55 Farm measure
56 Buss

Monday's Puzzle Solved

S	O	S	A	■	A	G	G	I	E	■	H	O	O	F
L	A	P	P	■	D	R	U	N	K	■	A	S	I	A
O	H	I	O	■	M	A	S	K	E	D	B	A	L	L
G	U	N	S	M	I	T	H	■	■	R	I	G	E	L
■	■	■	T	O	R	I	■	R	O	U	T	E	R	S
B	A	L	L	B	E	A	R	I	N	G	S	■	■	■
I	V	I	E	S	■	■	A	C	E	S	■	R	B	I
T	I	M	S	■	S	I	D	E	S	■	E	H	U	D
E	V	A	■	M	A	L	I	■	■	E	M	E	R	Y
■	■	■	B	I	L	L	I	A	R	D	B	A	L	L
R	A	V	I	N	E	S	■	C	A	N	E	■	■	■
A	D	O	B	E	■	■	N	O	W	A	D	A	Y	S
B	A	L	L	O	F	F	I	R	E	■	D	I	V	A
A	N	T	E	■	B	A	N	N	S	■	E	D	E	N
T	O	S	S	■	I	D	E	S	T	■	D	E	S	K

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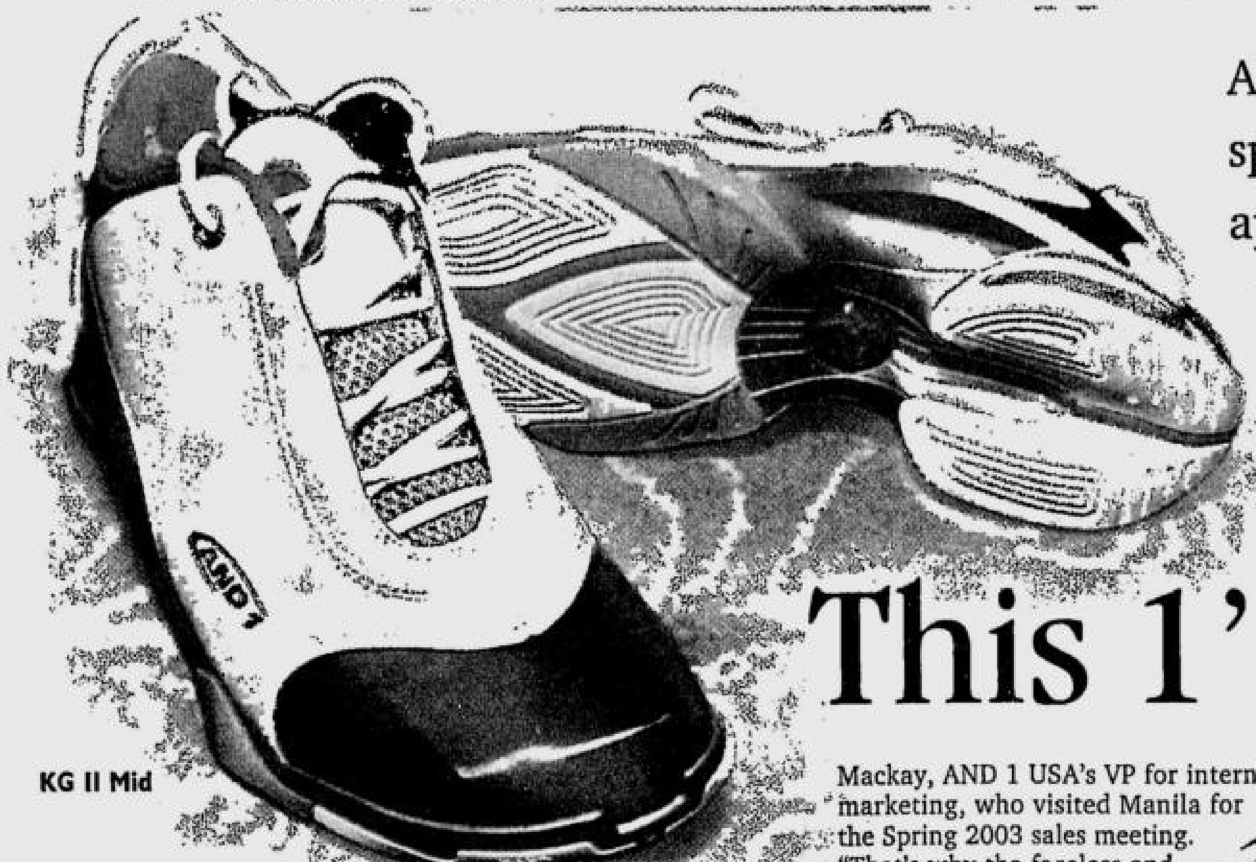


KG II Mid

AND 1 is sportswear that appeals to the basketball connoisseur and the basketball crazy

MARK Mackay, AND 1 USA's VP for international marketing, and Kurt Bachmann, president and GM of Relzbach Ventures

PHOTOS BY BETOY JOHNSON

This 1's for you

By Alex C. Paita

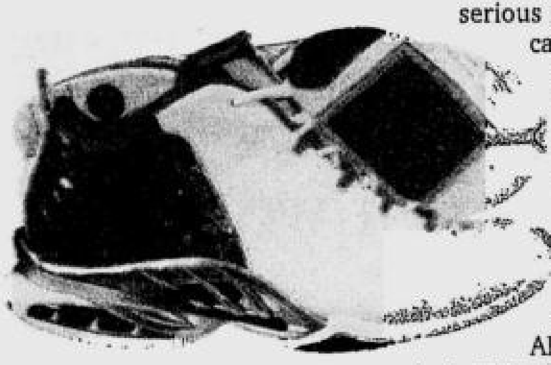
AND 1 is not for everyone. If you can't draw the line between the sham and the real ballplayer, take off those sportswear; you don't deserve them.

The basketball brand known for its "faceless, race-less player" logo is for ballplayers with serious game. As its product catalog tips off, "AND 1 is for players with ice water in their veins: those who break ankles and rain jumpers with no conscience."

So, unless you're namby-pamby, congratulations, here's good news for you.

AND 1, launched in the country only in 2000, has just brought in its Spring 2003 line—ranging from the new signature Kevin Garnett performance shoes to post-game apparel.

"When you wear AND 1, it's as good as saying 'I'm an authentic ballplayer,'" says Mark Mackay, AND 1 USA's VP for international marketing, who visited Manila for the Spring 2003 sales meeting. "That's why the faceless and race-less icon exists. It represents every kid who believes he is the best player on the court."



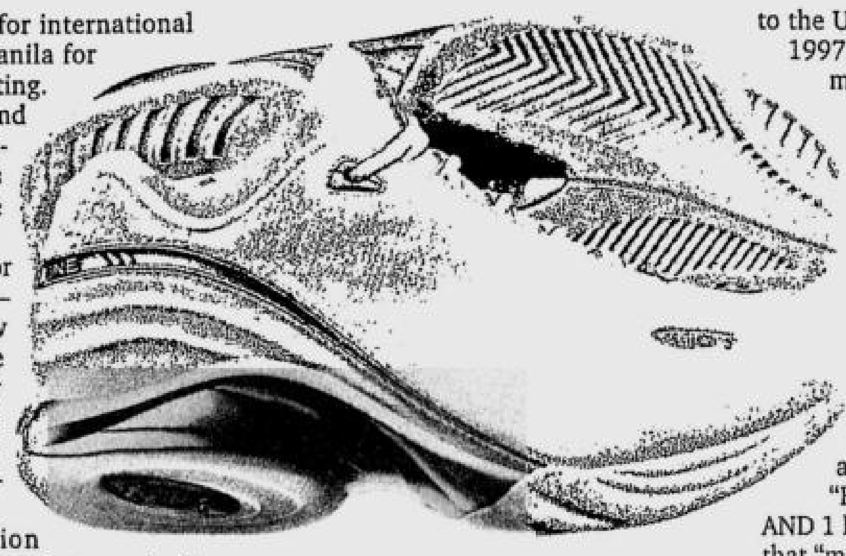
THE QUEST Mid

HOOP Life Low

The shoes, well known for their unique, stylish design—the Postgame Tochillin Low most remarkably—have been a hit in the country since their introduction. But AND 1 has more to offer than just hip, groundbreaking shoe exteriors.

"We are not a fashion brand," says Mackay. "Our products are built for performance. And they work best with professional basketball players."

Talk about support, cushioning, response and lightness of weight. All AND 1 shoes have an internal-molded shank (the narrow part of the sole) for arch support and torsional rigidity. Some styles are also equipped with external shanks "for increased support and lateral stability." All footwear are made of high-abrasion rubber, high-quality full-grain leather and synthetic compounds.



TRUTH Low

Signature stuff

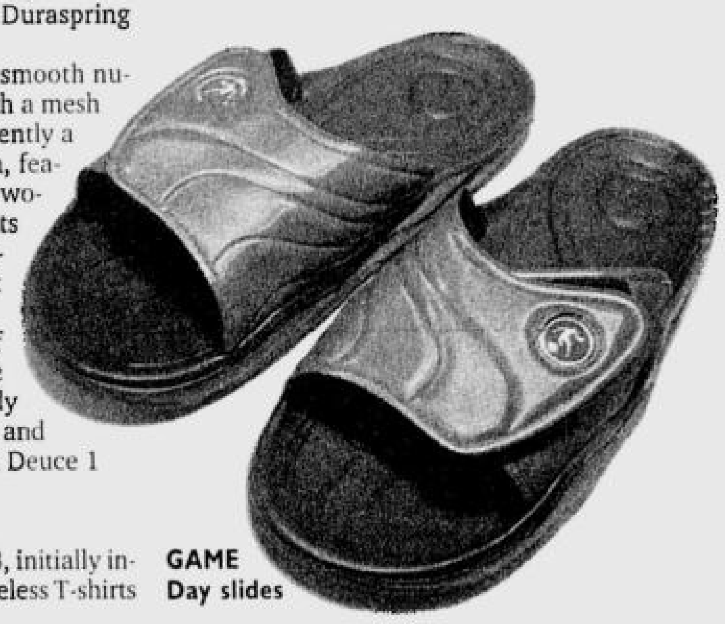
The KG (Kevin Garnett) II Mid is the finest of the new line. It is made of soft full-grain leather upper combined with synthetic lenticular accents. It has a dual-density, compression-molded midsole with forefoot-wrap design and heel-molded airbag. A high-abrasion rubber outsole, with new tread in forefoot for enhanced traction, and external toe, arch and heel shank ensure its stability.

Other performance shoes include the Quest Mid, which boasts of full-grain leather upper with synthetic panels, and a midsole with molded airbag space; Hoop Life Low, which has an upper with nubuck leather vamp for breathability, and herringbone tread design outsole; Right at Them Mid, which has a zipper combined with lace cover; and Hang Time, Lace 'em Up, Quilty Pleasures mid-cuts, and Mad Range, Truth and Duckets low-cuts.

True ballplayers are players on and off the court, the AND 1 catalog says. "They live the basketball lifestyle 24-7-365." That's why AND 1's Postgame, a collection of off-court performance products, are also on hand. These shoes are built around compression-molded Springlon midsoles and Duraspring cushioning system.

The Laid-Back Low has a rich smooth nubuck leather upper combined with a mesh heel. The Still Chillin Low, apparently a modified version of the Tochillin, features rich open-weave mesh with woven taping and reflective stich. Its midsole is made of rubber cupsole. Game Day and Late Night Slide sandals are also available.

Top it all with the new set of AND 1 apparels, which include the KG Bring the Fury suit, Ready to Roll shirt and shorts, Birds Eye and Twenty One sleeveless tees, and Deuce 1 T-shirts.



GAME Day slides

High five

AND 1 was established in 1993, initially introducing the trash tees and sleeveless T-shirts to the US. It began its footwear line only in 1997, and its Tochillin product sales dramatically scaled to $1 million in 2000.

It was named one of the fastest growing companies in 2000 by Inc. Magazine. In 2001, Kevin Garnett, a five-time NBA All Star, became its official endorser. Forty other NBA players endorse the product.

In the Philippines, Alaska's Jojo Lastimosa and Rodney Santos, Talk N Text's Mark Telan, Purefoods' Noy Castillo, Red Bull's Vince Hizon, Ateneo's Rich Alvarez, and ICTSI-La Salle's Mike Cortez are the celebrity endorsers.

"Built for the tough" is what it is, but AND 1 has a soft heart. Because it recognizes that "more than 98 percent of all high-school ballplayers will never get an athletic scholarship," it donates 5 percent of its annual profit to charity.

AND 1 is distributed by Relzbach Ventures Inc., with branches at SM North Edsa, SM South Mall, Festival Mall Alabang, Glorietta 4 and The Podium, and is also available at all SM and Rustan's department stores.

Weight-loss insights from big-time 'losers'

From page C1

calories a week (the men burned about 3,500 a week while the women burned 2,700). This is about 400 calories a week or one hour of brisk walking daily. If you feel you don't have the time to do this, be encouraged by the fact that many reported breaking their exercise time into smaller increments like doing several 10-minute walks throughout the day.

Seventy-seven percent used walking as the preferred means of exercise though on the average, they burned 1,000 calories a week by walking and the rest by doing other activities like bicycling, aerobics, stair climbing, weight lifting, step aerobics and running.

If you feel you need to go to the gym to lose weight, think again. Ninety-two percent of the participants reported exercising at home. About 30 percent said they exercise regularly with a group or with friends (walking, swimming, dancing and playing sports).

Eating breakfast

Breakfast is the meal that people who want to lose weight usually cut out first because they think that they can save calories this way. Well, not the successful losers. Almost 90 percent said they eat breakfast on most days of the week (four or more days). Nearly 80 percent report eating breakfast every day. Only 4 percent reported not eating breakfast.

Interestingly, there was no significant difference in the number of calories consumed throughout the day between the breakfast eaters and the non-breakfast eaters. In other words, the non-breakfast eaters made up for the calories they didn't eat in the morning during their other meals.

What about their other meals? The participants reported eating five meals a day. The majority of these meals were prepared and eaten at home. They reported eating in non-fast-food restaurants two to three times a week and in fast-food restaurants a little less than once a week.

Self-monitoring

To keep in control of their hard-earned weight loss, the participants used some type of self-monitoring method like weighing themselves or writing down what they ate.

Weighing themselves was the most common method. Seventy-five percent weighed themselves at least once a week.

Attitude changes

The researchers wanted to find out if the participants were living happier and more fulfilled lives. After all, what's the use of losing all that weight but you are miserable in having to maintain it.

Happily, the participants felt that all their weight-loss efforts were worth it. Ninety-five percent felt that the overall quality of their lives was improved. Ninety-two percent said that their level of energy was greater. Only less than 1 percent said their lives were worse because of what they had to do to maintain their weight loss.

And speaking of the difficulty of weight maintenance, one-third of the participants described maintaining their weight as hard, one-third said it was moderately easy and another one-third described it as easy. Forty-two percent said that maintaining the weight was actually easier than losing it.

What about those who gained weight?

As long as you can maintain a 30-pound weight loss, you can remain in the study. So if you originally lost 50 pounds but gained 10 pounds when they followed you up one year later, you are still considered a "loser." There are lessons to be learned from those who regained some of their weight. Here are the most common denominators:

- Increased fat intake.
- Decreased physical activity (an average of 800 calories a week).
- Reduced amount of self-monitoring activities.
- They had a history of bingeing and depression.

Next week: Practical tips from successful "losers"

Watch "In Fitness & In Health" on Studio 23 (Channel 42 on Destiny Cable), Mondays to Fridays, 6-6:30 a.m.

For past articles and exercises, go to www.tinajuanfitness.com

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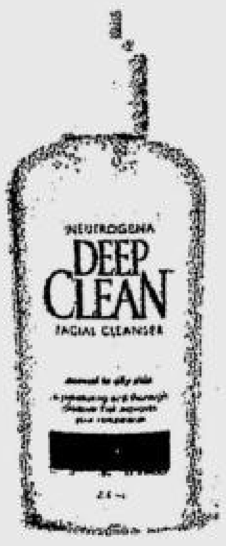
WEEKLY DOSAGE

Diabetes and body-fat lecture and exhibits set at Megamall

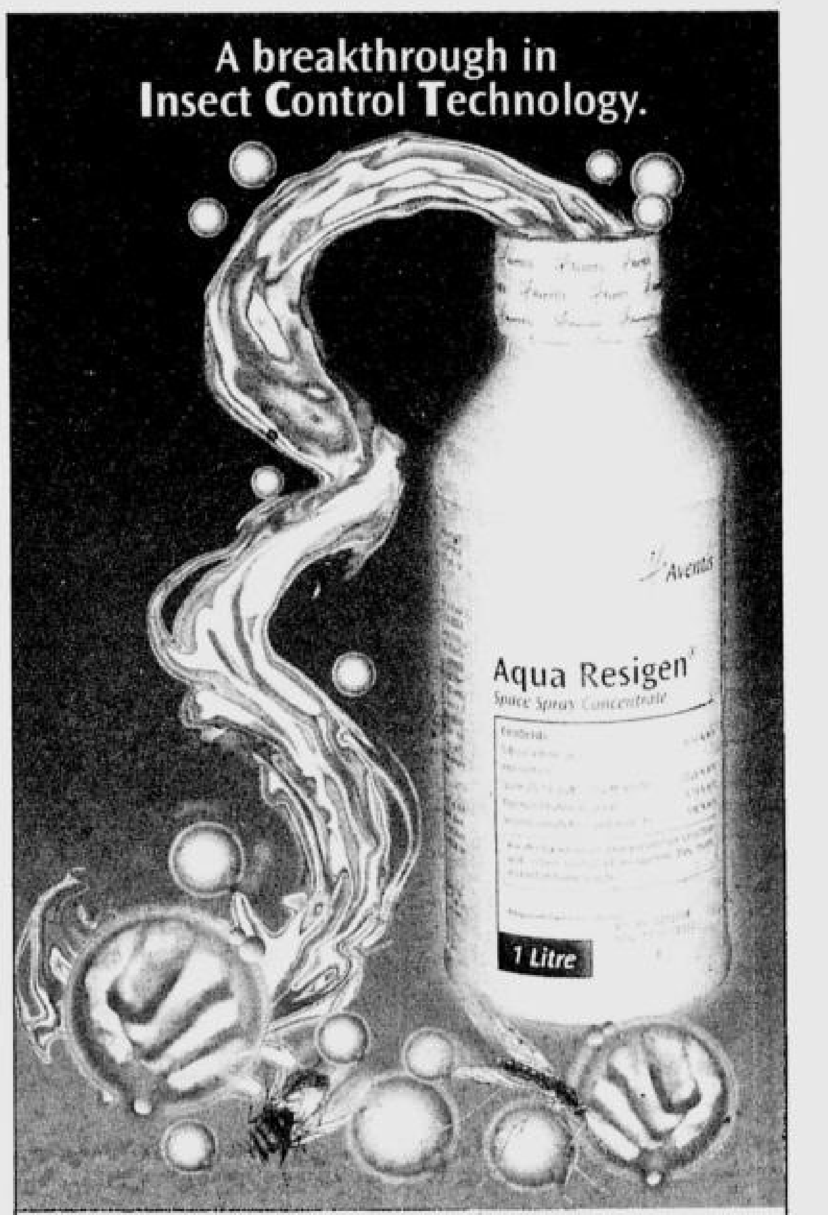
HEALTH from Earth Philippines, with Omron, Abbot Laboratories Diagnostic Division and Prevention magazine, will host a diabetes and body-fat lecture and exhibits on Aug. 16, 5-8 p.m. at the Megatrade Hall, SM Megamall. Guest speaker is Dr. Abe Gibeily, a world-renowned American diabetes researcher. Call the HFE Life Support Hotline at 660-2290 and 843-9781; (0916) 305-0010; or e-mail healthph@doctor.com.

ANNIVERSARY. St. Luke's Heart Institute celebrates its 16th anniversary until Aug. 9, with the theme "The Heart Institute at 16: Maintaining Excellence in Cardiology." A fellowship night will be held on Aug 9, 6 p.m., at the Via Mare Restaurant at the Tektite Towers Penthouse in Ortigas Center, Pasig City. The 6th HB Golf Cup is set on Aug. 14, 6 a.m., at the Canlubang Golf & Country Club in Canlubang, Laguna. Call 724-1589 or 723-0101/0301 local 5402.

SEMINAR. International Cosmetiques Inc., with Bellitas Limited UK, will hold a seminar on "European Spa Techniques for Face and Body Treatments" on Sept. 25, 1-6 p.m., at the Makati Shangri La. Call 951-4010 to -11, 931-9199 or 932-3545.



NEUTROGENA Deep Clean Facial Cleanser cleanses so deep it dissolves dirt, oil and makeup. It then exfoliates to reveal smoother skin. It rinses off completely without leaving any pore-clogging residue. It is available in 200 ml bottle. Catch the ongoing Neutrogena promo at Watson's store until Aug. 14. Every purchase of Neutrogena Deep Clean Facial Cleanser entitles one to a 50-percent discount on your second Deep Clean Facial Cleanser purchase.



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Aqua Resigen®
Space Spray Concentrate
☐ The first fully effective WATER-DILUTED space spray in patented encapsulated droplets.
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☐ Environment-friendly and has high margin of safety in use
☐ Odorless, non-staining, and non-tainting
☐ Found to have Larvicidal Effect on mosquitoes
☐ Preferred and highly recommended for INDOOR use
☐ The Pioneer in FFAST Technology (Film Forming Aqueous Spray Technology)
Also available Resigen EC OIL-BASE Spray Concentrate preferred for OUTDOOR use
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0917-8480219- Luzon; 0917-8110086- Visayas/Mindanao
(08822)727-060- Cagayan de Oro
(083) 554-7211- Gen. Santos (062)991-0197- Zamboanga
(082)297-4884/(082)222-5566 Davao

Involve heart and soul in knowing what you desire

Part I

You are what your deep driving desire is
Where your desire is, there is your will
Where your will is, there is your deed
Where your deed is, there is your destiny
—Upanishads

INSIDE OUT

Cory Quirino

IT IS said that the secret to staying young is evolution—the unfolding of yourself from what you were yesterday to what you are today and to what you will become tomorrow. And that evolution takes root in and springs forth from a fertile soil called the "self."

So you want to discover the secrets to endless youth? Then let us begin—with you.

What do you desire?

Ask yourself that question and answer truthfully. There are no right or wrong answers—only that which you define for yourself. List down according to priority what you want to happen to yourself.

It can be a stronger, sexier, more attractive body; a happier disposition; a more productive and fulfilling life. Whatever it may be, be more aware of your life's desires by involving your heart in this soul-searching exercise.

Where is your mind?

The mind, once it is focused on a thought or idea, gives energy to see a thing through. In short, the more you think of something or someone, the more energy you send to the thoughts that occupy your mind. Therefore, in order to fuel your desires, don't just feel them—think about them. This means reading self-help books, a healthy lifestyle and educating yourself in the latest in health and medicine.

Ready for commitment?

When heart and mind are one, the electromagnetic field of these two sources of tremendous energy doubles. This creates a third force called the will.

If you want changes to happen, you welcome and invoke newness to enter your life. With a strong will, you can shape your life. When you will a healthier you, your lifestyle embraces healthy habits like eating moderately, cutting down on fats, sugar/salt and alcohol, exercising regularly.

Your destiny is your deed

Doing the things that help you accomplish your goals are what shape your world, what guide your instincts, what inspire you to fulfillment. They soon become part of your own personal bible—golden rules to live by. These make you who you are.

Your evolution

The deepest reality you are aware of is the one from which you draw your power. For someone who is conscious only of the material world, power is limited to material forces but at a more profound level. There is a creative power shaping mind and body—the power of evolution (Deepak Chopra, MD, "Ageless Body, Timeless Mind").

The only way to evolve is to tap the creative power of the universe, which "expresses itself through your personal activity." So, ask yourself: Do your actions contribute to your own growth or deterioration?

You have the power

"There are three forces pervading all life: creation, maintenance and destruction; all three are present in the life span of cells, stars, trees, planets... Since every form must come into being, be maintained and pass away."

It is entirely up to you to decide which force is most dominant in your life because you have the power to shift the balance of these forces.

You will evolve if:

ILLUSTRATION: STEPH BRAVO

1. Creation dominates your existence, i.e., bringing into your life more joy, more triumphs, leaving your sadness, your defeats behind—the most creative people use this energy to make and remake their lives.

2. You choose to grow to get on with your life, instead of living in the past and wallowing in pain and being consumed by anger, bitterness and revenge.

There are people who look younger than their actual age. Why? Studies show that they possess traits that give them a youthful radiance:

1. They are able to enjoy silence (practicing the art of keeping still quiets the minds and hearts).

2. They connect with energy and enjoy nature.

3. They trust their feelings.

4. They can remain centered and functioning amid confusion and chaos.

5. They are childlike—they enjoy fantasy and play.

6. They place the highest trust in their own consciousness.

7. They are not rigidly attached to any point of view. Although passionately committed to their creativity, they remain open to new possibilities.

Before we dissect these traits next week in order to apply them to your life in practical ways, here's a great way to feel younger.

Mega fruit booster:

In a blender, mix 4 tbsp of ripe papaya, 4 slices of bananas, 1 c of fresh yogurt or yogurt ice cream. For sizzle, mix ½ bottle of sparkling water (optional). Feel recharged.

Beauty soak:

Put petals of your favorite flower (roses, jasmine, *sampaguita*—make sure you wash them thoroughly to remove pesticides) in a tub of hot water. Add a cup of canned milk and five drops of rose essential oil (already mixed in one tablespoon of almond, apricot or olive oil). Soak for seven minutes. Get a loofah or pumice stone and scrub your dry skin away (from feet to neck) with the help of foaming bath gel or creamy moisturizing soap like Dove. Rinse with cool water.

"Total Wellness," the body-mind-spirit workshop by Jimmy Licauco and Cory Quirino, will soon be available. For inquiries/reservations, call 892-6806; 637-9653.

"Forever Young," (revised edition), is now available at National Book Store and Power Books.

Watch the author's beauty rituals at 8 a.m. daily on "Beauty In & Out," Unang Hirit, GMA 7.

Los Baños hospice care group marks 8th anniversary

MADRE de Amor Foundation (Los Baños hospice care group), a lay organization dedicated to the care of the dying, will observe its eighth anniversary on Aug. 19.

The Madre de Amor Foundation (MAF) provides patients in the last stages of their lives with companionship and comfort through a regular program of visits and prayerful interaction. The hospice movement in the country is still relatively young, but those behind the foundation hopes that it will become more widespread, as the need for its services continue to expand.

Since it was organized in 1994, the Los Baños Hospice Care Group, has opened up new hospice care groups in Calamba and Sta. Cruz, Laguna. The group operates as a team of doctors, nurses, therapists and volunteers who provide the dying with home-care service.

Volunteers are given training and exposure by a group of senior volunteers and professionals.

As it observes its eighth anniversary, the MAF hopes that it will be able to attract more volunteers to help fulfill its mission. Interested parties may write to Madre de Amor Foundation, Los Baños Hospice Care Group, 9957 Amethyst St., Los Baños, Laguna.

Seeking answers from the spirit world

INNER AWARENESS

Jaime T. Licauco

MEDIUMSHIP, in its essential elements, is the same wherever it is found in the world. It simply refers to communication with the spirit world. But there are many forms of mediumship and they differ in purpose.

Soul survival after death

In the West, the main motivating factor for the study of spiritism was to prove whether the soul survived physical death. In certain cases, there was even a question of whether there was a soul or not. Spiritism sought to answer such questions.

Research into spiritist messages and phenomena began in earnest in the 19th century in England and the United States. Prominent men of science and letters, such as William Crookes, Thomas Edison, Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, Sir William Barrett, Sir Oliver Lodge and many others became seriously interested in its study.

During spiritist seances, tables would start moving and a rapping would be heard. One of the most dramatic phenomena that occurred during some of these sessions was the appearance of hands, face and even whole ghostly figures. Sometimes, a strange whitish fluid would emerge from the medium's body. Investigators referred to this as "ectoplasm." On other occasions, familiar objects would simply appear out of nowhere. These objects are called "apports." They are familiar occurrences in mediumistic sessions.

Here is one report as related in the book "Spirits and Spirit Worlds" by Roy Stemman:

"On a midwinter evening in England just about 100 years ago, a small group of psychic investigators were sitting in a small, warm, gas-lit room, eager to witness the phenomena produced by a powerful young medium named Agnes Nichol. The séance lasted for four hours, and at the end of it, a most astonishing manifestation occurred. On a bare table in the center of the room, there suddenly appeared a quantity of flowers. Anemones, tulips, chrysanthemums, Chinese primroses and ferns lay in a heap on the table.

" 'All were absolutely fresh as if gathered from a conservatory,' " wrote one of the witnesses. "They were covered with a fine, cold dew. Not a petal was crumpled or broken, not a most delicate pinnule of the ferns was out of place."

"It would be easy to dismiss this report as beyond belief, and to assume that the researcher was inexperienced and gullible and the medium a brilliant fraud. However, the man who wrote those words cannot be so easily dismissed. It was Dr. Alfred Russell Wallace who, with Charles Darwin, had developed the theory of evolution. Wallace was one of the first scientists to investigate spiritualism."

Interest in research into mediumism and spiritism died down in the West after a series of exposes of alleged fraud in the press. The great scientific skepticism of the time prevented an honest-to-goodness and unbiased reporting of the phenomenon.

A definite text on spiritism and mediumship was written by a Frenchman named Allan Kardec, whose real name was Hippolyte Leon Denizard Rivail. He took as his pseudonym two names he believed he used in his previous incarnations. His books titled "Book of the Spirits" and "Book of Mediums" had been very influential in South America and in the Philippines, where a vigorous and popular form of spiritism had developed.

Philippine spiritism

In the Philippines, spiritism has taken on a different route compared to the West. While in the West, the thrust was for proof of survival after physical death, in the Philippines mediumism had a more practical reason for its existence. The early Filipinos who practiced an indigenous form of mediumism assumed there was life after death. They needed no proof of it. Therefore, mediumism was used to answer practical needs and to answer certain questions. For instance, they wanted to know whether spirits had any message for the living, or whether they approved a certain action of the living relatives or not, such as disposition of property, etc.

The most important development of spiritism in the Philippines and in South America concerned healing. Almost all mediums in the country perform some form of folk healing, the most dramatic of which is psychic surgery, or the process whereby a spiritual healer, usually in a trance, would open up the body of a patient with his bare hands, take out diseased tissues and then close the incision with hardly a trace of the operation. Because the process defies all known laws of medical science, it has been regarded by many Western investigators and even Filipino scientists as a complete fraud. Yet objective evidence by impartial investigators has shown otherwise.

ILLUSTRATION: STEPH BRAVO

According to some account, the official or formal institution of spiritism in the Philippines began in 1901 with the organization of the Union Espiritista Cristiana de Filipinas. It was a fraternity whose objective was "to propagate the Gospels from the point of view of spiritistic morals and scientific ethics under the purview of spiritism. All of these shall be had in the experiments and studies under the physical viewpoint as manifested by communication and messages of the spirits..."

At first, the healings performed by the mediums of the Union Espiritista were "psychomagnetic infusion by physical passes and telepathic transmissions." However, sometime in 1940, before the Second World War, a healer in San Fabian, Pangasinan, by the name of Eleuterio Terte, began performing psychic operations with the use of a knife, ala Ze Arigo of Brazil. After the War, however, Terte began doing psychic surgery with his bare hands. The psychic operations were so spectacular they eclipsed the magnetic passes and telepathic transmissions to heal diseases. In the 1960s, Terte began to attract the attention of Western investigators. Following Terte, the most famous of the faith healers and of whom volumes have been written by foreign researchers, was Tony Agpaoa, who died in 1982 of a stroke.

Because of the interest shown by the Western world in psychic surgery and how healers acquire their powers, there was a resurgence of interest in spiritism and mediumship, Philippine style. More and more foreigners came to the Philippines in recent years, not necessarily to get healed, but to study mediumship and healing under the tutelage of our healers. In 1986, Centro Escolar University accepted and approved a masteral dissertation on "Mediumship" written by Claudette Rosal for her master's degree in psychology.

Several foreigners learned to perform barehanded psychic surgery from Filipino healers: a Frenchman, the former Australian and Japanese wives of a well-known Filipino healer, and two Americans.

Almost all Filipino faith healers and psychic surgeons learned mediumship and healing from the spiritist circles.

Address letters to this column to 308 Prince Plaza 1, 106 Legazpi St., Greenbelt, Makati City, or e-mail me at my new e-mail address jlicauco@edsamail.com.ph. Visit my new website at http://j.licauco.tripod.com. Listen to my dzMM radio program every Sunday, 6-8 p.m.

Take Charge Doc!

Rx MEDICard

Nicky S. Montoya, M.D.

Looking to learn more about your benefits under your MEDICard coverage? Do you want to be clear on the procedures, which allow you to avail of MEDICard's services? Get your information straight from MEDICard's Medical Director, DR. NICKY S. MONTOYA

FAQs (frequently asked questions)

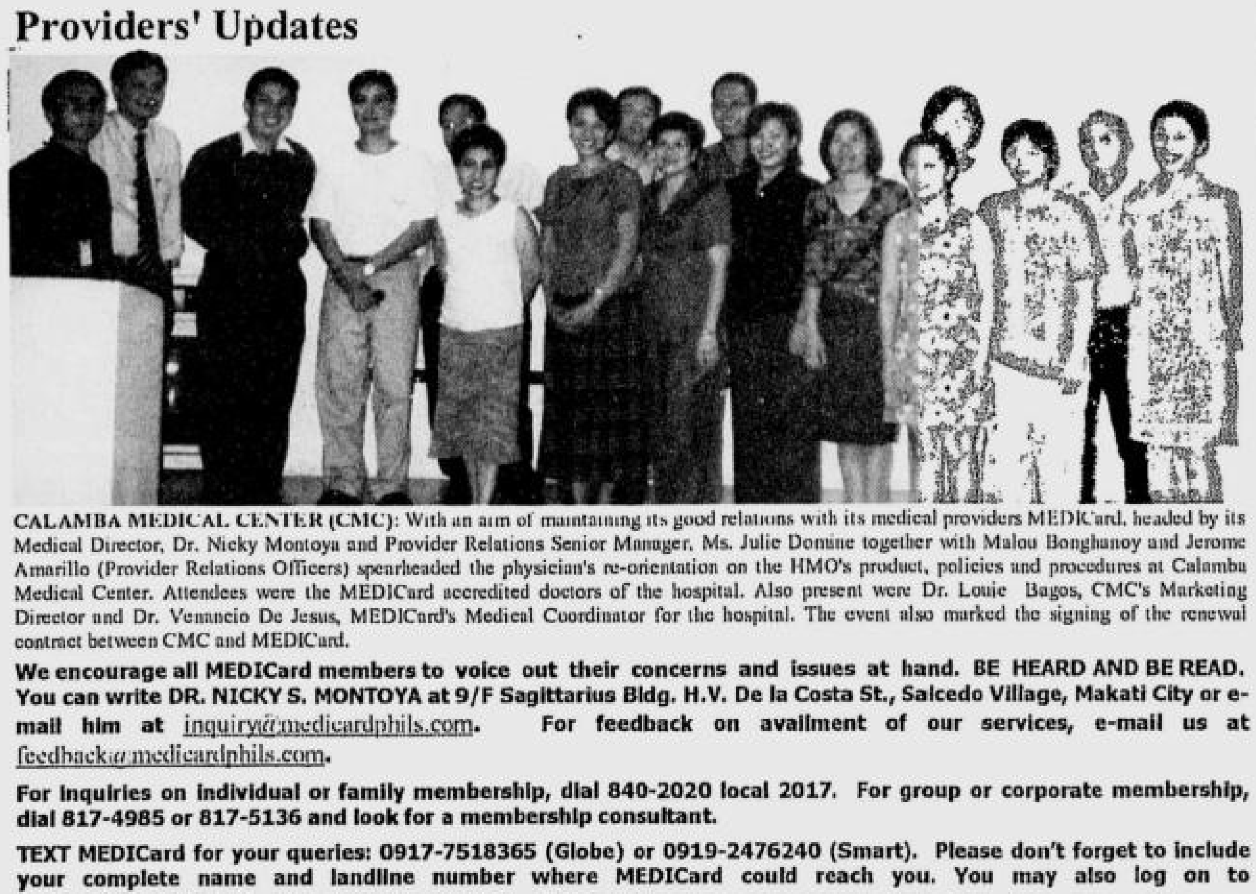
Is it possible for our employees to have their Annual Physical Examination (APE) on-site that is, within our company's premises?

Yes it is possible. APE may be done on-site on a pre-scheduled date through a **MEDICard Mobile Medical Team.** This however, requires a minimum of 50 employees guaranteed to get their APE services there. You may secure a schedule through your servicing officer. On-site APE benefit also requires that at least the semi-annual premium has been settled.

Meet your MEDICard Team

Specialist **Dr. Edgardo F. Fernandez** is MEDICard's Medical Coordinator at Perpetual Help Medical Center (PHMC) in Las Piñas City, and has been a member of our medical service team since 1990. His more than 20 years of practice of his profession began when he finished his degree in Medicine at UERM-MMC. After which, Dr. Fernandez chose to specialize in General Surgery with residency training at the Ospital ng Maynila. Doc Edgardo takes pride in being the team coordinator of the accredited physicians in one of the major hospitals in Manila for one of the largest HMOs in the country. For all your medical needs at PHMC, drop by the coordinator's clinic, Room 613 from Mondays to Saturdays, 8 in the morning to 5 in the afternoon.

Providers' Updates



CALAMBA MEDICAL CENTER (CMC): With an aim of maintaining its good relations with its medical providers MEDICard, headed by its Medical Director, Dr. Nicky Montoya and Provider Relations Senior Manager, Ms. Julie Donine together with Malou Bonghanoy and Jerome Amarillo (Provider Relations Officers) spearheaded the physician's re-orientation on the HMO's product, policies and procedures at Calamba Medical Center. Attendees were the MEDICard accredited doctors of the hospital. Also present were Dr. Louie Bagos, CMC's Marketing Director and Dr. Venancio De Jesus, MEDICard's Medical Coordinator for the hospital. The event also marked the signing of the renewal contract between CMC and MEDICard.

We encourage all MEDICard members to voice out their concerns and issues at hand. BE HEARD AND BE READ. You can write DR. NICKY S. MONTOYA at 9/F Sagittarius Bldg. H.V. De la Costa St., Salcedo Village, Makati City or e-mail him at inquiry@medicardphils.com. **For feedback on availment of our services, e-mail us at** feedback@medicardphils.com.

For inquiries on individual or family membership, dial 840-2020 local 2017. For group or corporate membership, dial 817-4985 or 817-5136 and look for a membership consultant.

TEXT MEDICard for your queries: 0917-7518365 (Globe) or 0919-2476240 (Smart). Please don't forget to include your complete name and landline number where MEDICard could reach you. You may also log on to www.medicardphils.com.

MEDICard is the first and only HMO in the Philippines and the whole Asian region to be ISO 9002 certified.

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